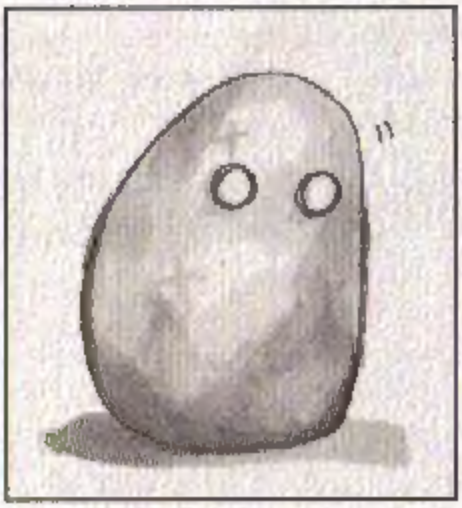
DRAGON
EYEZ
5
KAIRI
FUJIYAMA



Poor Issa, he has so many enemies. And they're all formidable. That's why he has powerful allies too. I wonder if the fish cake-looking creature above will become a powerful ally...

—Kairi Fujiyama

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

青眼

5

The Story of DRAGON EYE

龍眼物語

It has been several decades since the D Virus, whose infected victims transform into murderous monsters known as Dracules, spread across the world. The human population plummeted severely and the world was approaching a crisis point.... Those who emerged to protect people from the Dracules came to be called the VIUS.

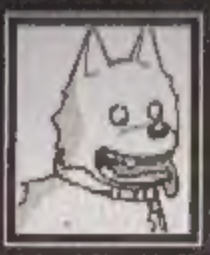
VIUS Squad Zero Captain Issa is a warrior who bears the Dragon Eye on his forehead. Along with squad members Leila and Yukimura, he strives every day to protect Mikuni City from the Dracules. However, a recent mission uncovers the involvement of a government official in the smuggling of Dracules into Mikuni! Is there a traitor within VIUS!? In addition, the mystery man who does not think highly of Issa sets another trap meant to get him expelled from VIUS!!

Issa Kazuma

Squad Zero captain. Seems lackadaisical, but possesses a Dragon Eye and wields the broadsword Diamond Sacred Steel. Because his older sister, Clara, he was taken hostage by Dracules, he has a history with them.

Dog

The mysterious dog that lurks in Squad Zero's ready room. Who is his owner...?



Leila Mikami

Newly inducted VIUS member. When she was little, both her parents were killed by Dracules, and she alone survived. Her weapon of choice is the *katana* blade.

Yukimura Sôsei

A former Squad Five member currently on temporary reassignment to Squad Zero. Believes Issa killed his twin sister—and so he wields twin blades in her memory and secretly plots for vengeance.

Futaba

Sôsei's twin sister, who was killed by Issa six years ago.

Hyûga

Assigned to the Intelligence Corps. Idolizes Issa because his first mission was with Issa's squad. Supposedly likes Mikuni's pop star NATSUMI ★ chan.

Sakuraba Shun'ichi

Captain of Squad One. Said to be the sharpest warrior within all of Mikuni VIUS. A good friend of Iesa's, he is often forced to clean up after Issa's blunders.

Kiura

Captain of Squad Five, Yukimura's original unit. Used to be a member of Squad Zero, so has some sort of history with Issa.

Aoi Shizue

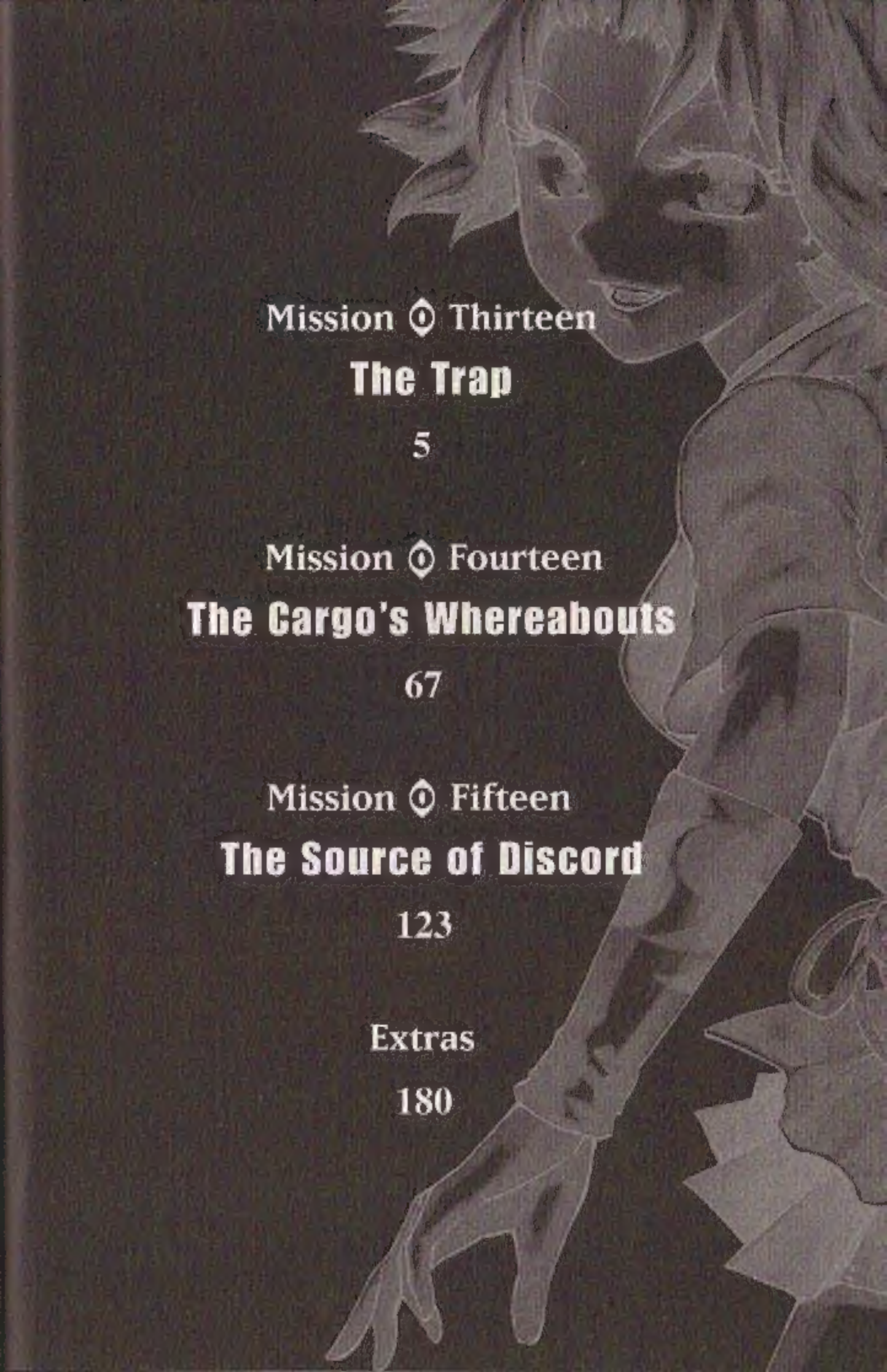
Squad Six captain. Squad Six is a covert ops unit, so she is good at undercover investigations. However, in Mission 12, we got a glimpse of her strength when she induced a rough-and-tumble scuffle.

Mystery Man

A man who is trying to get Issa exiled from Mikuni by setting Hibiki on him. Seems to be a high-level official, from his ability to secretly pull strings for Hibiki...?

Hibiki Masamune

Squad Six member. A young but brilliant and talented warrior. Wields two giant blades. Seems to hold enmity towards Issa...



Mission ⓪ Thirteen

The Trap

5

Mission ⓪ Fourteen

The Cargo's Whereabouts

67

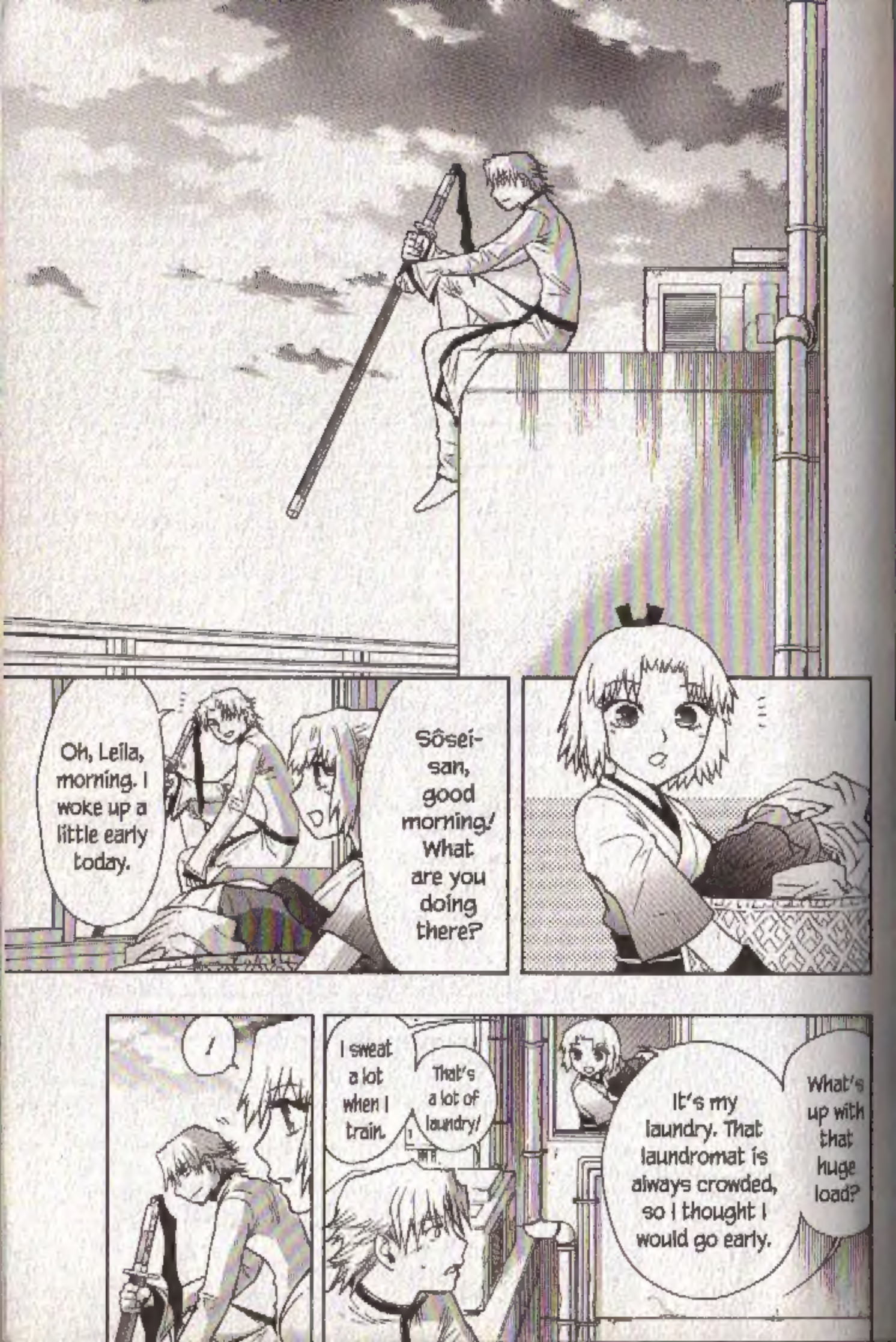
Mission ⓪ Fifteen

The Source of Discord

123

Extras

180


Oh, Leila, morning. I woke up a little early today.
Sôsei-san, good morning! What are you doing there?
I
I sweat a lot when I train.
That's a lot of laundry!
It's my laundry. That laundromat is always crowded, so I thought I would go early.
What's up with that huge load?

Until then, it's just this one.
Yeah. They're making me a duplicate right now.
You lost one of your blades, didn't you?
...precious to me.
Huh?
Oh, I mean, it just seems special to you...
My blade is precious to me, because I received it from my teacher.
That red sash... does it have particular significance?
...Yeah, I guess it is...

Mission Thirteen
The Trap

Issa-kun's not here yet.
He's probably in the cafeteria.
Good... huh?
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
Roar!
slam
Man, that was a good run!
stomp
stomp
stomp
phew
You startled us!
Issa-kun! What's going on?

You just have too much time on your hands.
I got business with you!!
Why were you running away from me!?
'Cuz you were chasing after me, duh. I see you around too often these days.
stagger...
heave
heave
P...please wait, Kazuma-san!
Actually, I just made that up!
ta-daa
I've been assigned to be the exclusive communi-cations liaison to Squad Zero!!
Kazuma-san, despite how it looks, I'm a real busy fellow!
And the reason why you keep seeing me is...
Oh, which reminds me, here is your mission assignment for today.
rummage rummage
It's not fair!! I'll be showing up every three days, OK!
So what?
Y...you're so cruel!! If I don't stick around, you always forget me right away,
Creepy!
Hey!!

Squad Zero, today you will join with another unit on a joint mission.
It's a covert operation outside your usual jurisdiction, but... you will be aiding Squad Six on an infiltration mission.
Squad Six...? That's that pretty captain from the other day...
So where are we going?
Ward Head-quarters...
of Mikuni District One.
A govern-ment office?!
The investigation into the Yara Clan has yielded some new information.
First, with regard to their inside contact within the Mikuni government, not a single Yara member knew his identity.

They probably did it as insurance in case there was any trouble.

But although we couldn't ferret out that individual himself, the Yara Clan had secretly taken and held onto photos of his go-between, who met with them.

Because we can't take the risk of them catching on and erasing any evidence, we must proceed with extreme care.

Thus, it was decided to use those photos to infiltrate suspect offices and scour their employee directories.

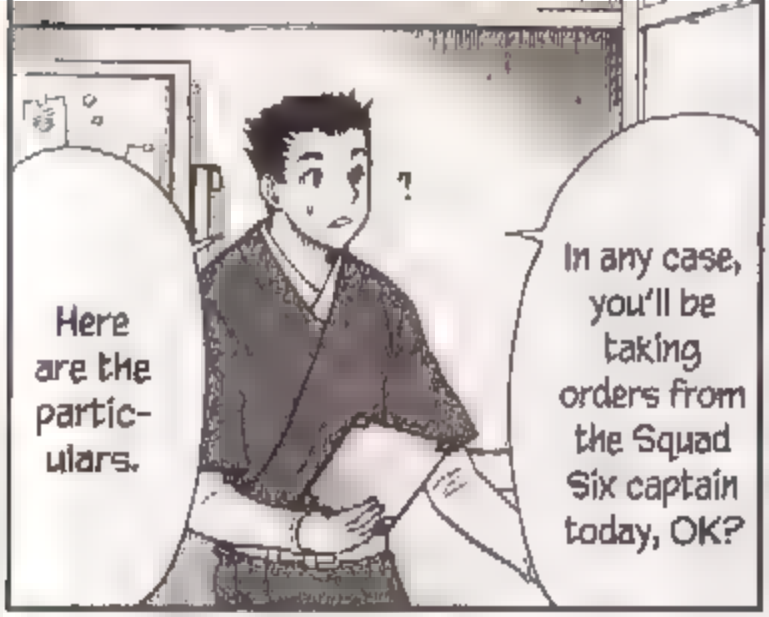
Squad Zero will wait in standby mode as backup in case the arrest gets out of hand.

If and when the photographed individual is identified, he will be apprehended.

First, the Squad Six captain will enter in disguise and divert their attention. The rest of Squad Six will use that opportunity to infiltrate and search through the directories.

What about him?
The other day, someone else entirely was mediating Dracule sales with the Yara.
Um, Hyūga-san?
I know, but please take this seriously.
If they find him, huh? It could be a long, boring day.
Someone else?
Oh, the Squad Six captain cautioned me not to divulge it too casually, but...
Um... I crossed paths with him completely by chance during my mission.
I believe he was called "Daraku."
!!

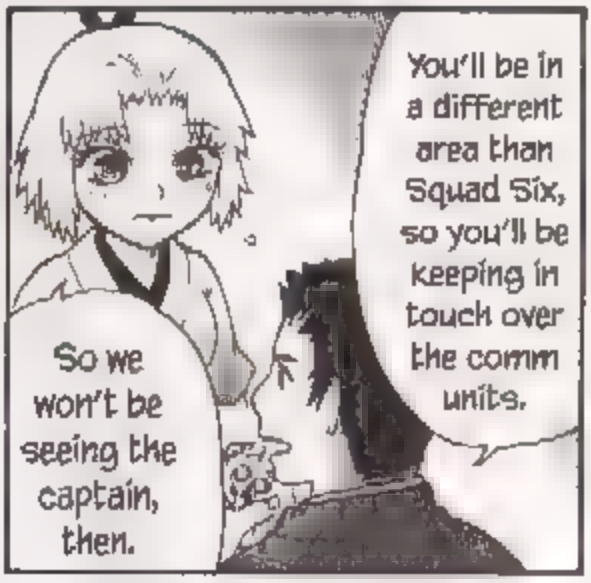
You met them!?
Huh? "Them"? N...no...
Leila!!
Y...yes?!
Then you didn't see their faces or anything.
N...no.
phew
I see...
U...um... I was hiding in a storage room, so I only heard his voice...
Huh? ...I think only one.
Uh... what does that have to do...
Leila, how many of them were there?

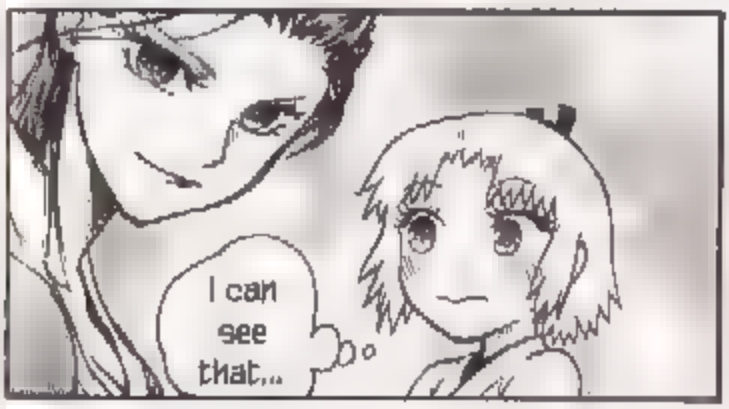

Here are the particulars.
?
In any case, you'll be taking orders from the Squad Six captain today, OK?

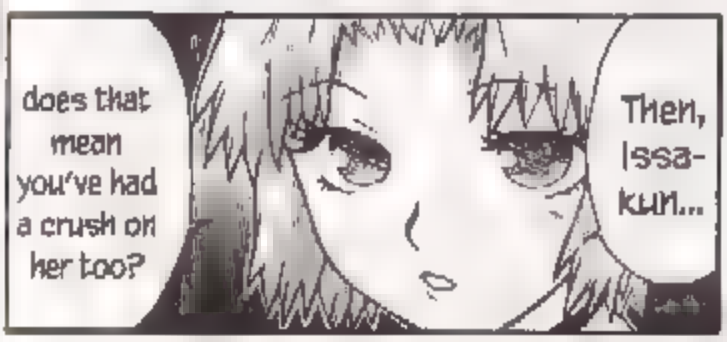
No, nothing. Thanks.

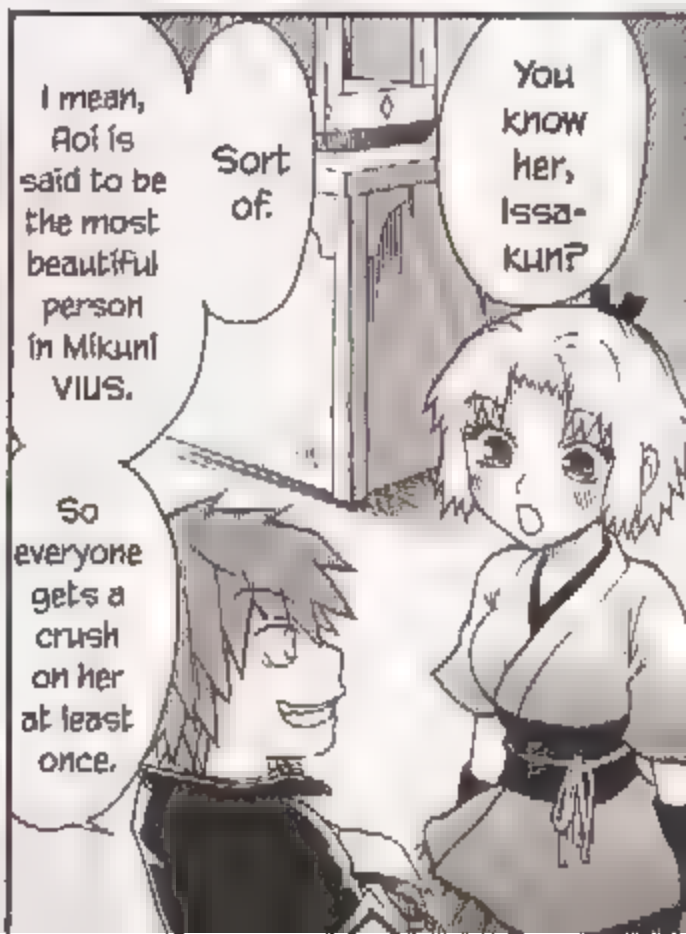
What, you getting a crush on Aoi?

Leila, you seem disappointed.
The Squad Six captain is a very wonderful person.

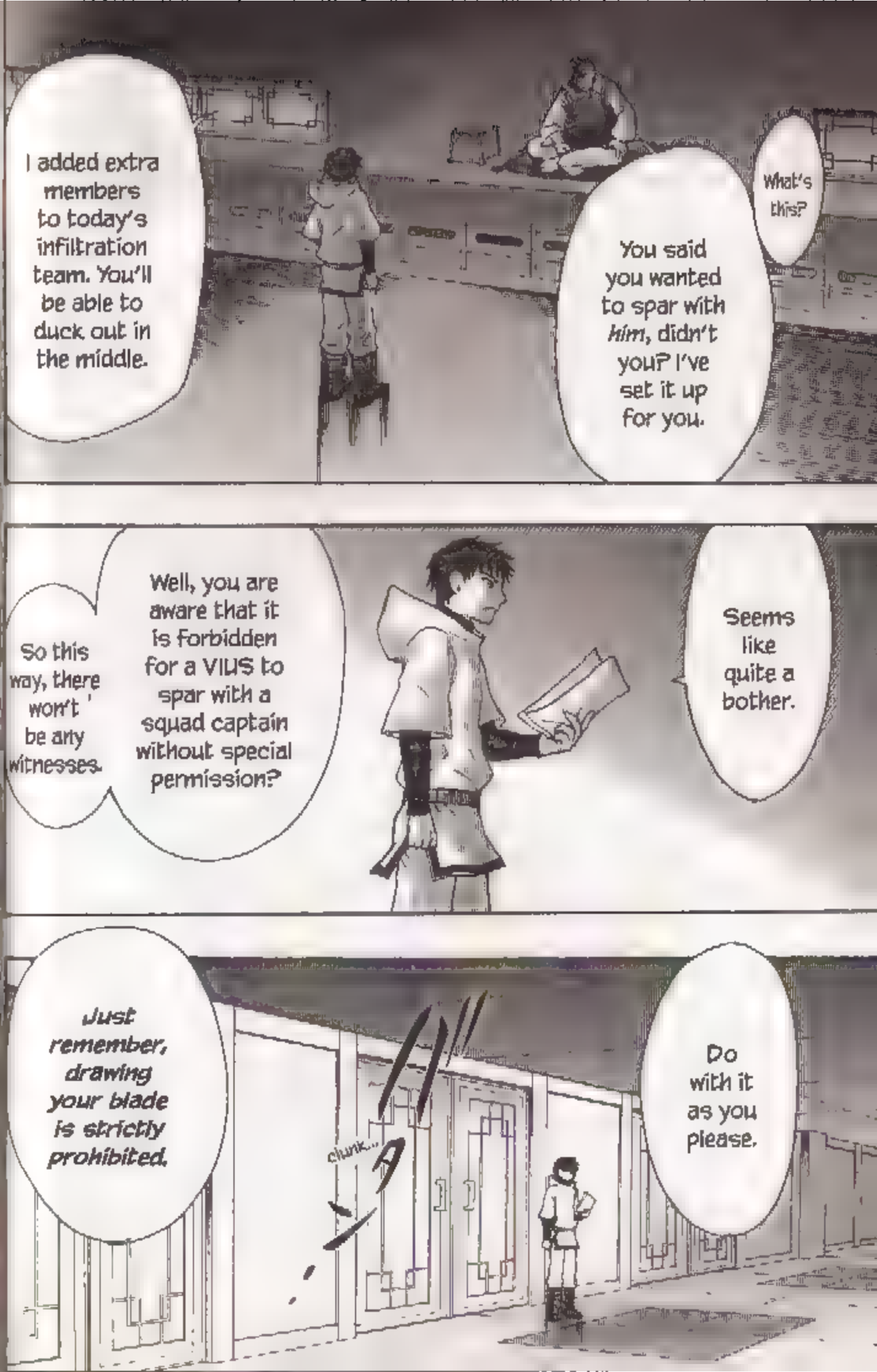

So we won't be seeing the captain, then.
You'll be in a different area than Squad Six, so you'll be keeping in touch over the comm units.


I can see that...

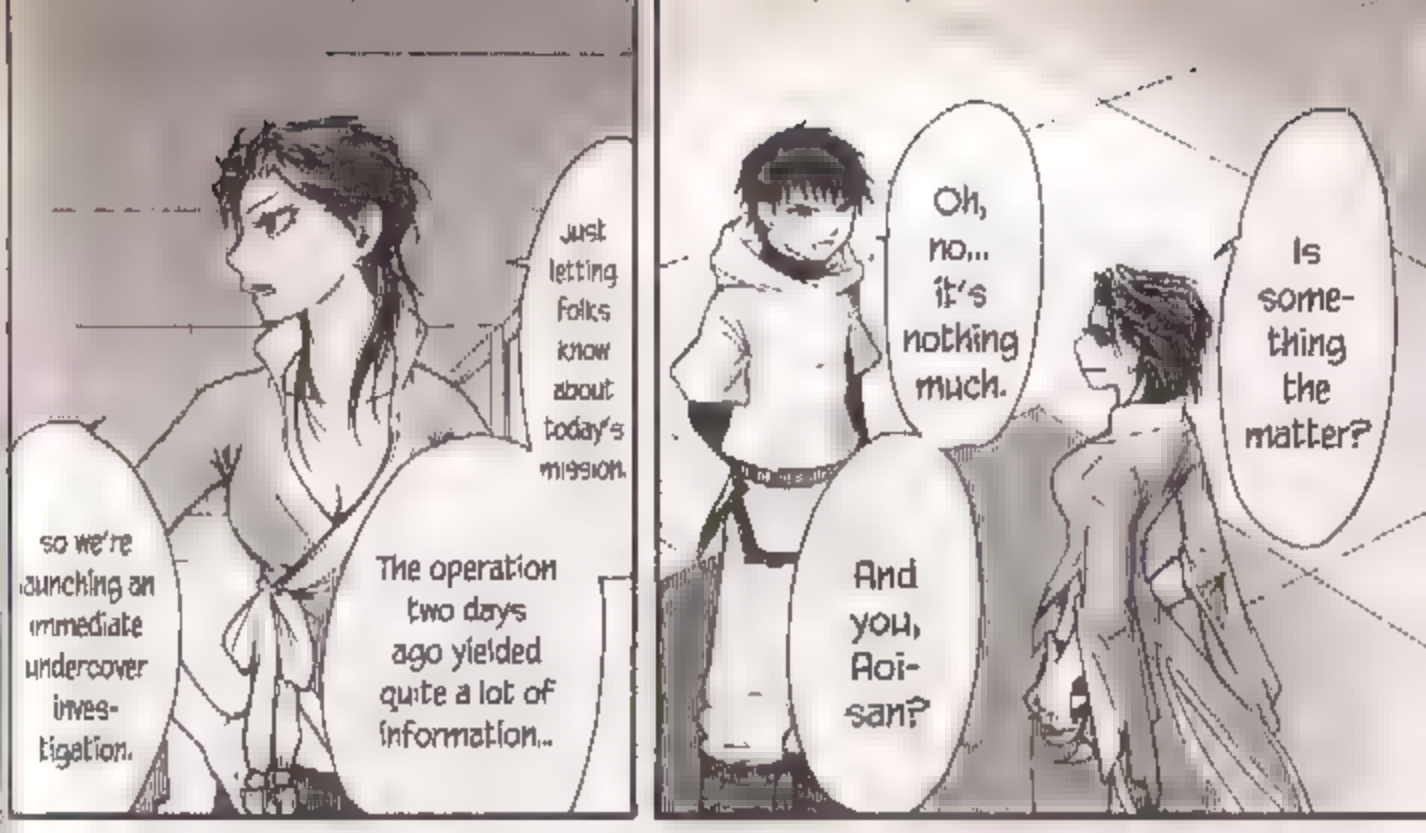

does that mean you've had a crush on her too?
Then, Issa-kun...


You know her, Issa-kun?
Sort of.
I mean, Aoi is said to be the most beautiful person in Mikuni VIUS.
So everyone gets a crush on her at least once.

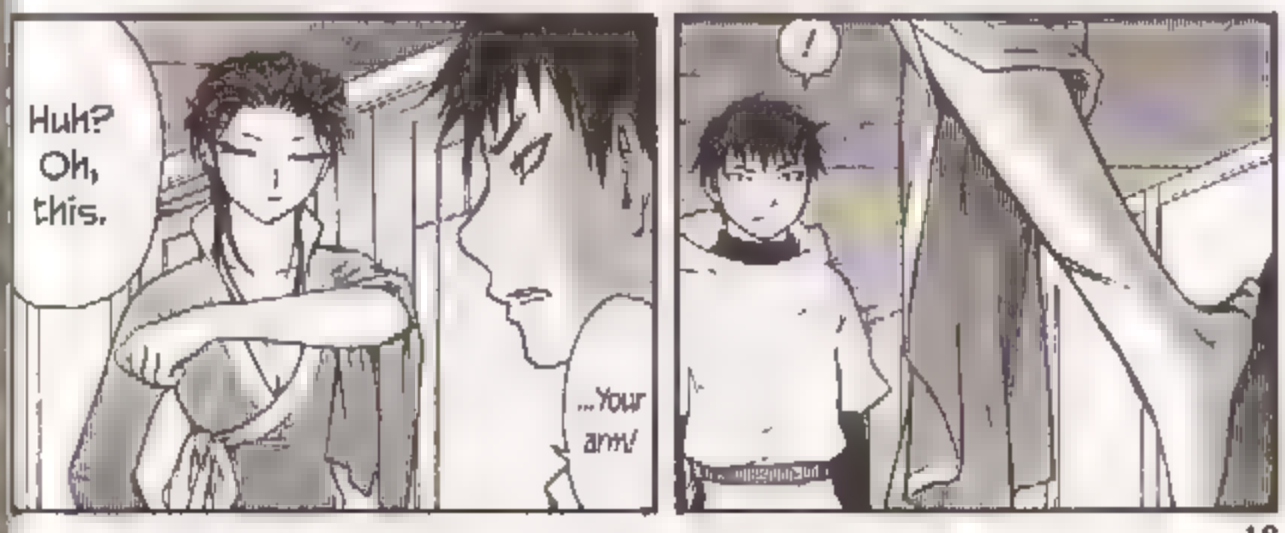
Hmm... I've known her a long time now...
Hmm!
Oh, that's right!
Huh?
Me?!
woosh
blast
What!?!
You asked!!
ta-daa...
I like her breasts...
Here are the mission details. Your posts are marked on the diagram.
thump

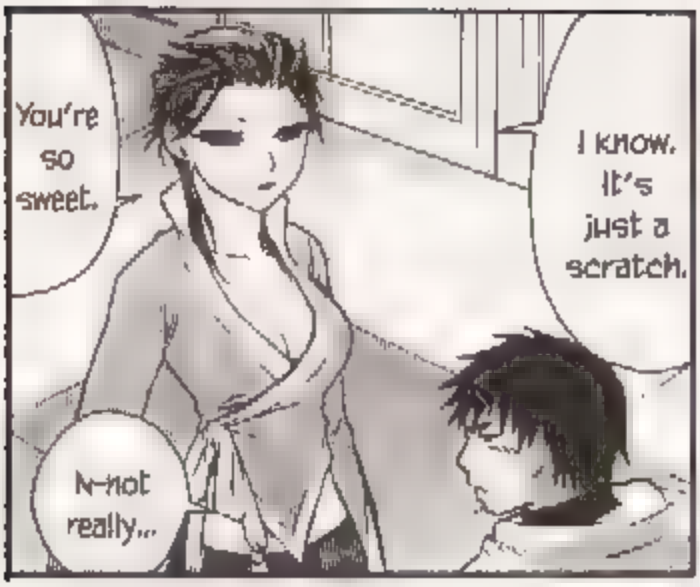

I added extra members to today's infiltration team. You'll be able to duck out in the middle.
You said you wanted to spar with *him*, didn't you? I've set it up for you.
What's this?
So this way, there won't be any witnesses.
Well, you are aware that it is forbidden for a VIUS to spar with a squad captain without special permission?
Seems like quite a bother.
Just remember, drawing your blade is strictly prohibited.
chunk...
Do with it as you please.

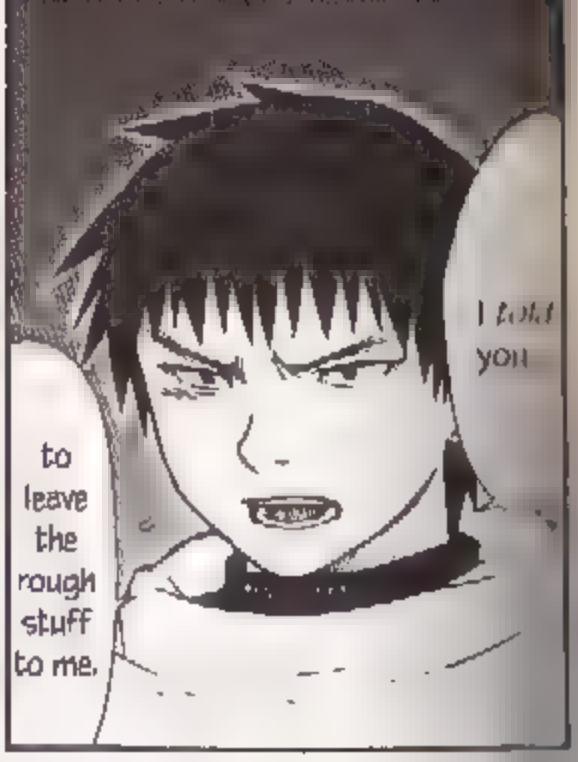
Masamune!
...
!
Captain... Aoi!
hide
click
click
What are you doing here?
How unusual.


The operation two days ago yielded quite a lot of information..
Just letting folks know about today's mission.
so we're launching an immediate undercover investigation.
Is something the matter?
Oh, no... it's nothing much.
And you, Aoi-san?

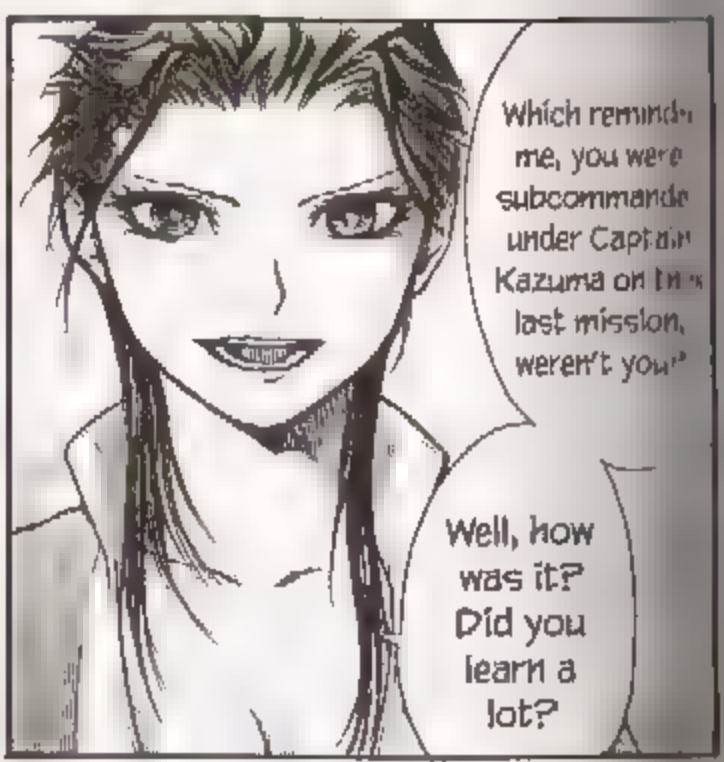
You had just come off a joint op with Squad Zero, remember?
But... I would have been fine...
Shôji and Akane were plenty.
Two days ago?
didn't know there'd been a mission.


Huh? Oh, this.
...Your arm!
!


You're so sweet.
I know. It's just a scratch.
N-not really...

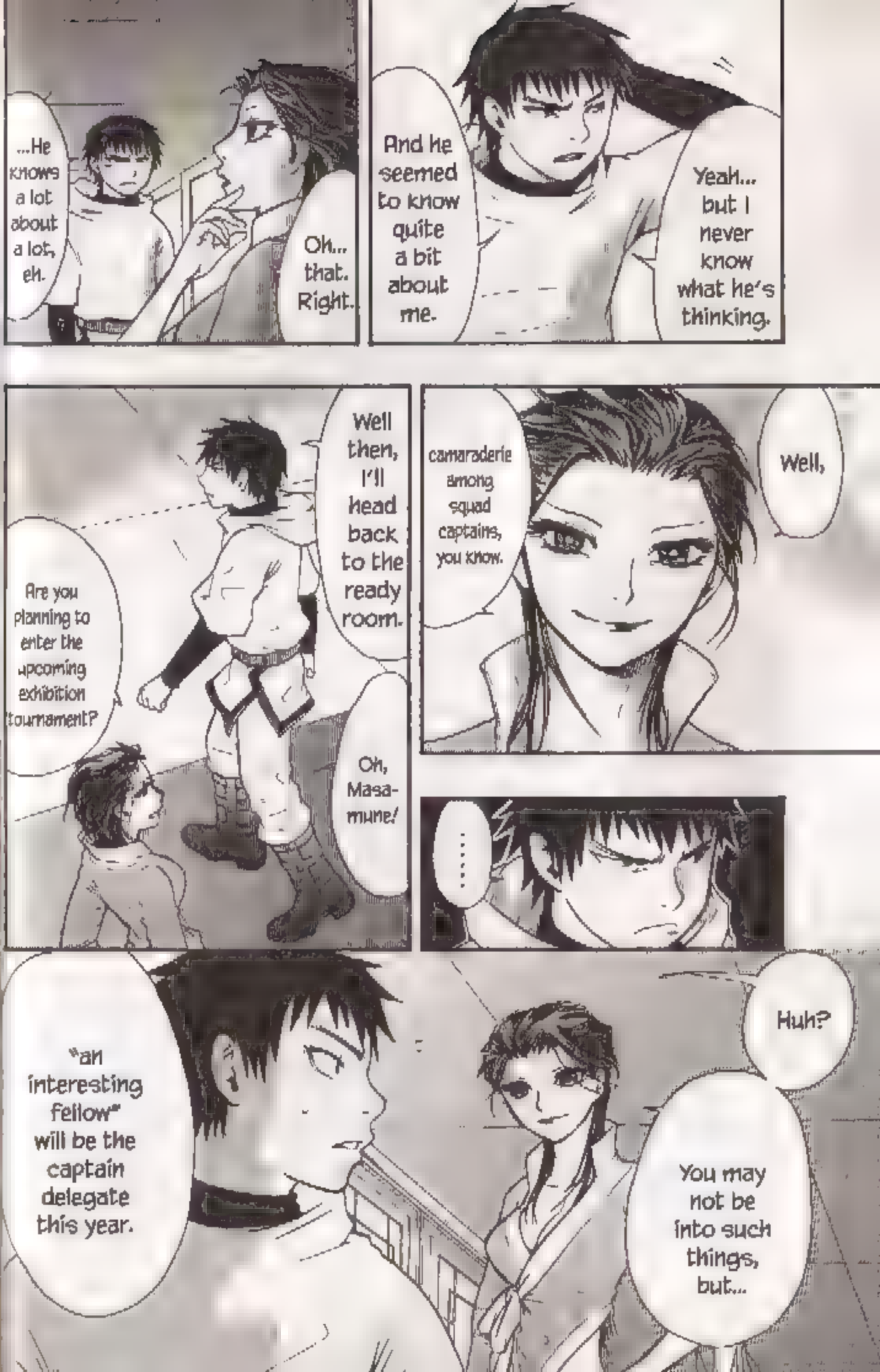

I told you to leave the rough stuff to me.

Learn?
No, not really... we were separated for most of it, so...

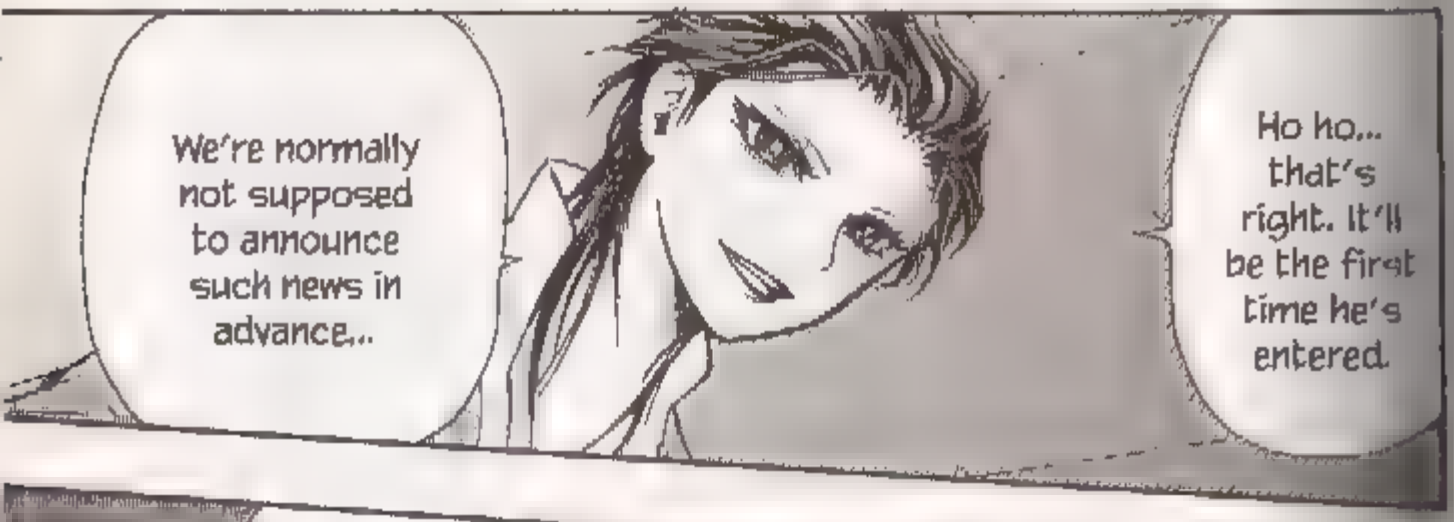

Which reminds me, you were subcommander under Captain Kazuma on his last mission, weren't you?
Well, how was it? Did you learn a lot?

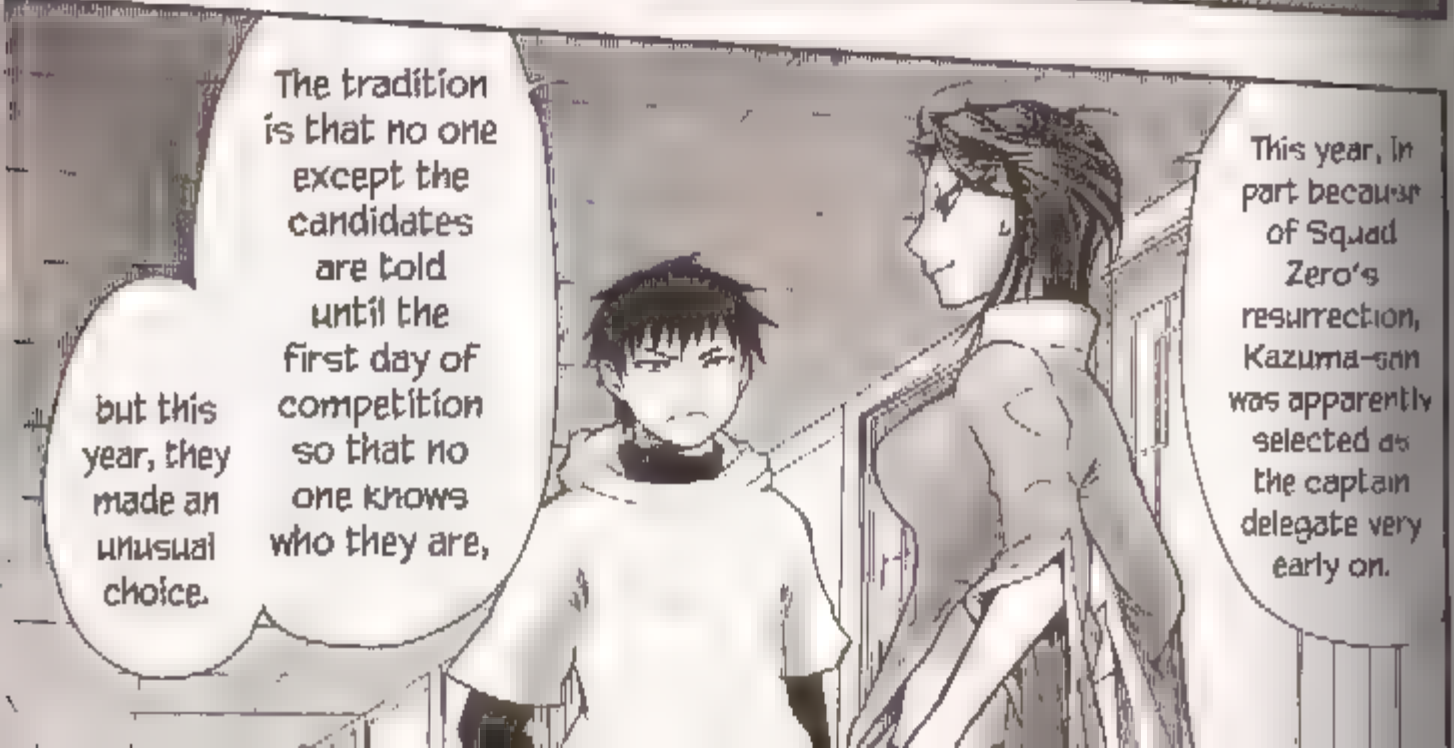
Pretty interesting fellow, no?
Well, I've been on a few missions with Kazuma-san.

Aoi-san, do you know the Squad Zero captain well?
Oh, that's right Never mind


...He knows a lot about a lot, eh.
Oh... that. Right.
And he seemed to know quite a bit about me.
Yeah... but I never know what he's thinking.
Well then, I'll head back to the ready room.
Are you planning to enter the upcoming exhibition tournament?
Oh, Masa-mune!
Well,
camaraderie among squad captains, you know.
.....
"an interesting fellow" will be the captain delegate this year.
Huh?
You may not be into such things, but...

Issa Kazuma?
You mean Captain...

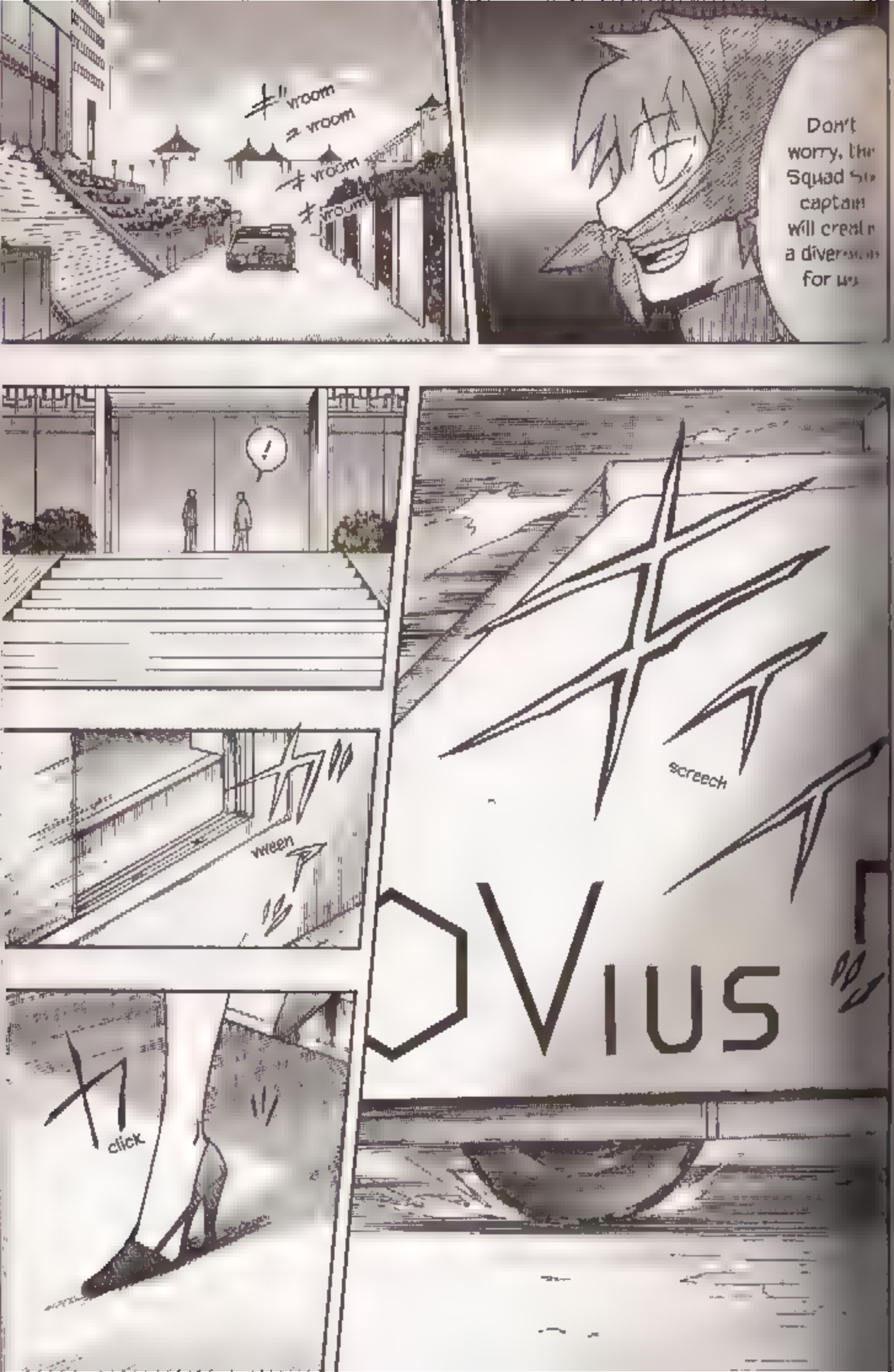

We're normally not supposed to announce such news in advance...
Ho ho... that's right. It'll be the first time he's entered.


but this year, they made an unusual choice.
The tradition is that no one except the candidates are told until the first day of competition so that no one knows who they are,
This year, in part because of Squad Zero's resurrection, Kazuma-san was apparently selected as the captain delegate very early on.

an unusual choice
I'm starting to see it now.
There are very few opportunities to spar all-out with a squad captain, you know.
You might be able to make it to the finals.
Masamune!
...Sure.
In any case, you still have time. Just think about it.
...See you later.
Just remember, Captain Kazuma...
is very strong.

gust
gust
gust
gust
pop
creep
creep
Coast's clear!
glance
glance

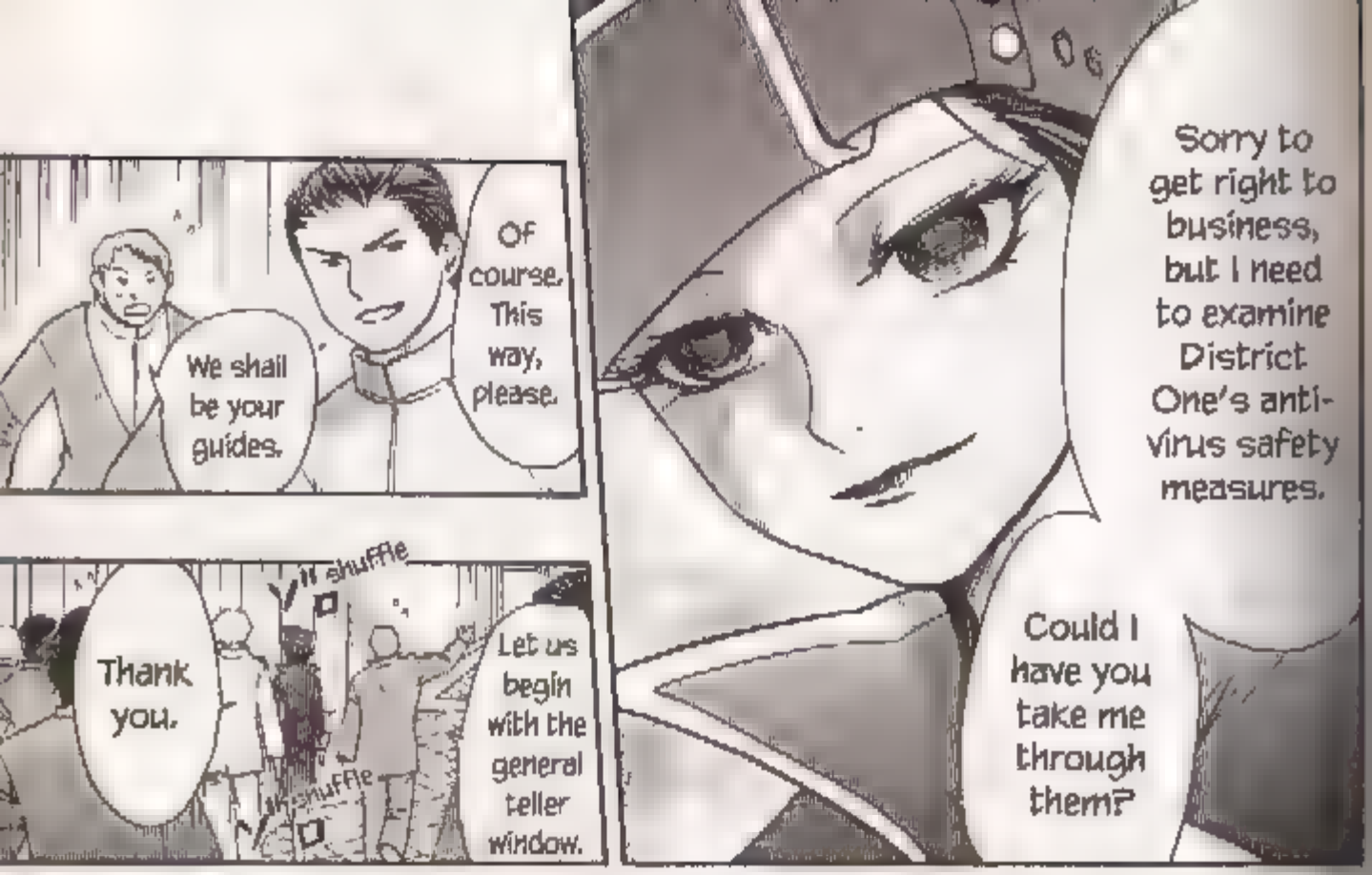
dash
dash
dash
Thrilling, isn't it?
I've never even gone inside a ward headquarters...
much less snuck in...
Do you think we'll be able to get through without confronting anyone?
We do have to be more careful than against Draculas, you're right...
Especially since they're government officials. We can't risk injuring them.
leap

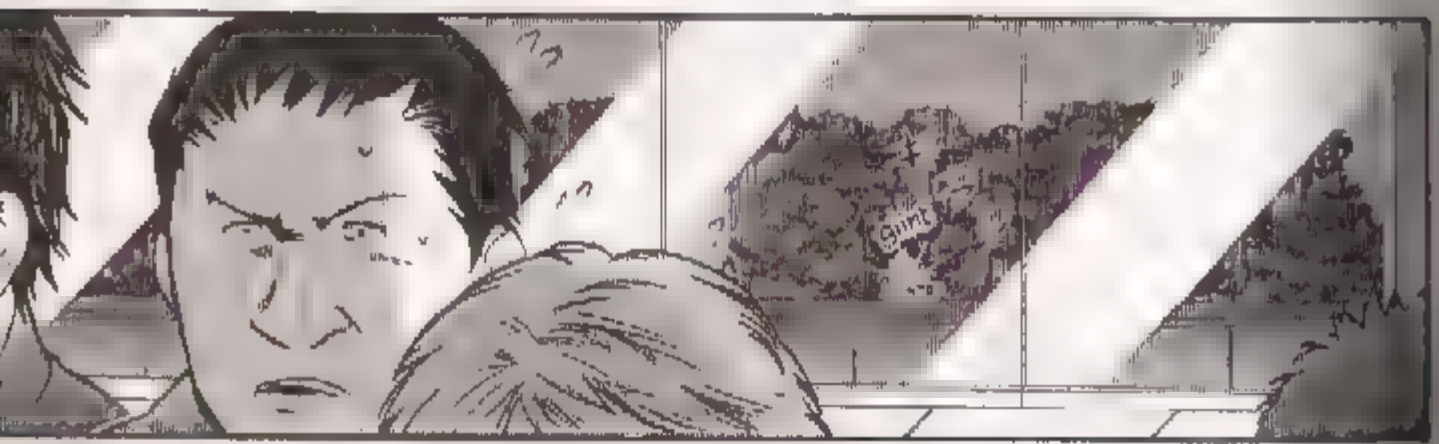

vroom
vroom
vroom
vroom
Don't worry, the Squad Six captain will create a diversion for us
!
screech
vveen
click
VIUS

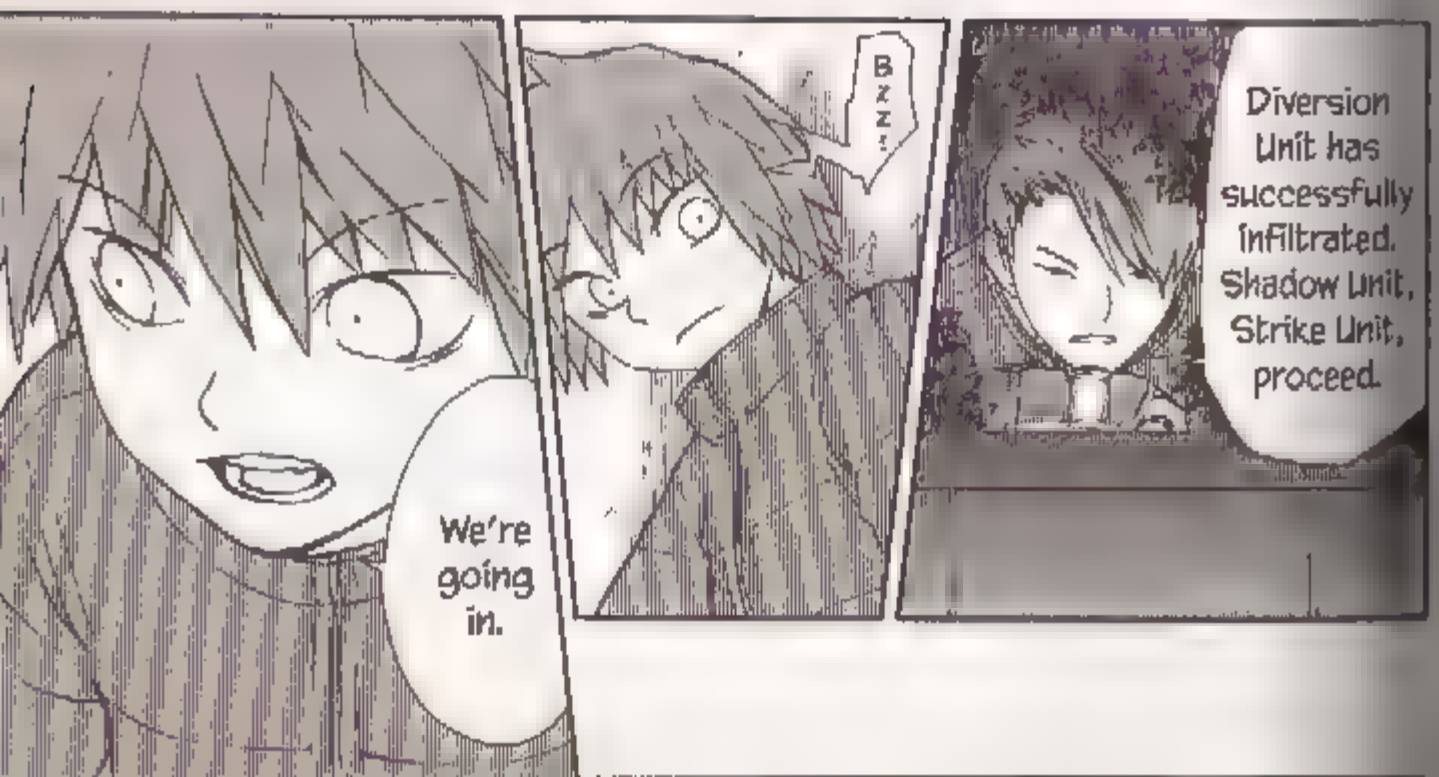
Wh... what's going on?
dash
dash
dash
Why is a Mikuni police van...
Um, how can we help you?
We do not have any appointments listed for anyone today.
I am a member of the safety measures committee of VIUS Central.
We are here to perform a surprise inspection. Please comply.

Wham
A member of the safety measures committee!?
U-uh... r...right away, ma'am!!!
Yiug Central!!!
She's waiting in the lobby right now, sir.
A surprise inspection!? Assemble everyone present to receive her! At all haste!
Y... yes, sir!!
All staff in the building, please assemble on the first floor at once!
An inspection by a Central committee member. This is a serious matter..

ta-daa
ta-daa
ta-daa
My, you did *not* have to do all this for me.
We were... quite startled by your sudden visit. For a VIUS Central envoy to drop by...
If we could have been sent word, we would have even gone to transport you here ourselves.
Please, be at ease. This *is* a mandated surprise inspection, after all. I hope you understand.

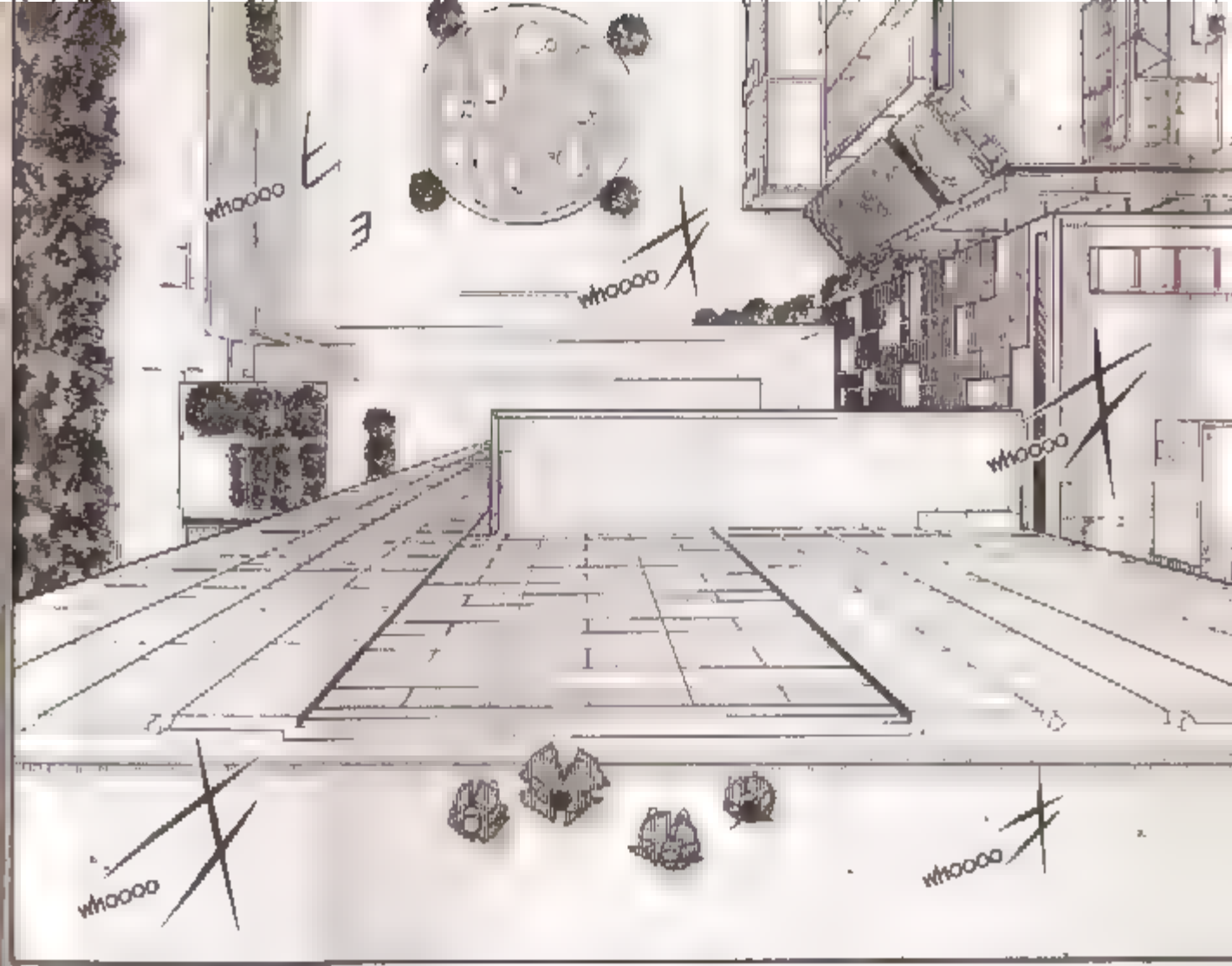

Sorry to get right to business, but I need to examine District One's anti-virus safety measures.
Could I have you take me through them?
Of course. This way, please.
We shall be your guides.
Thank you.
Let us begin with the general teller window.


Grunt


We're going in.
Bzz...
Diversion Unit has successfully infiltrated. Shadow Unit, Strike Unit, proceed.

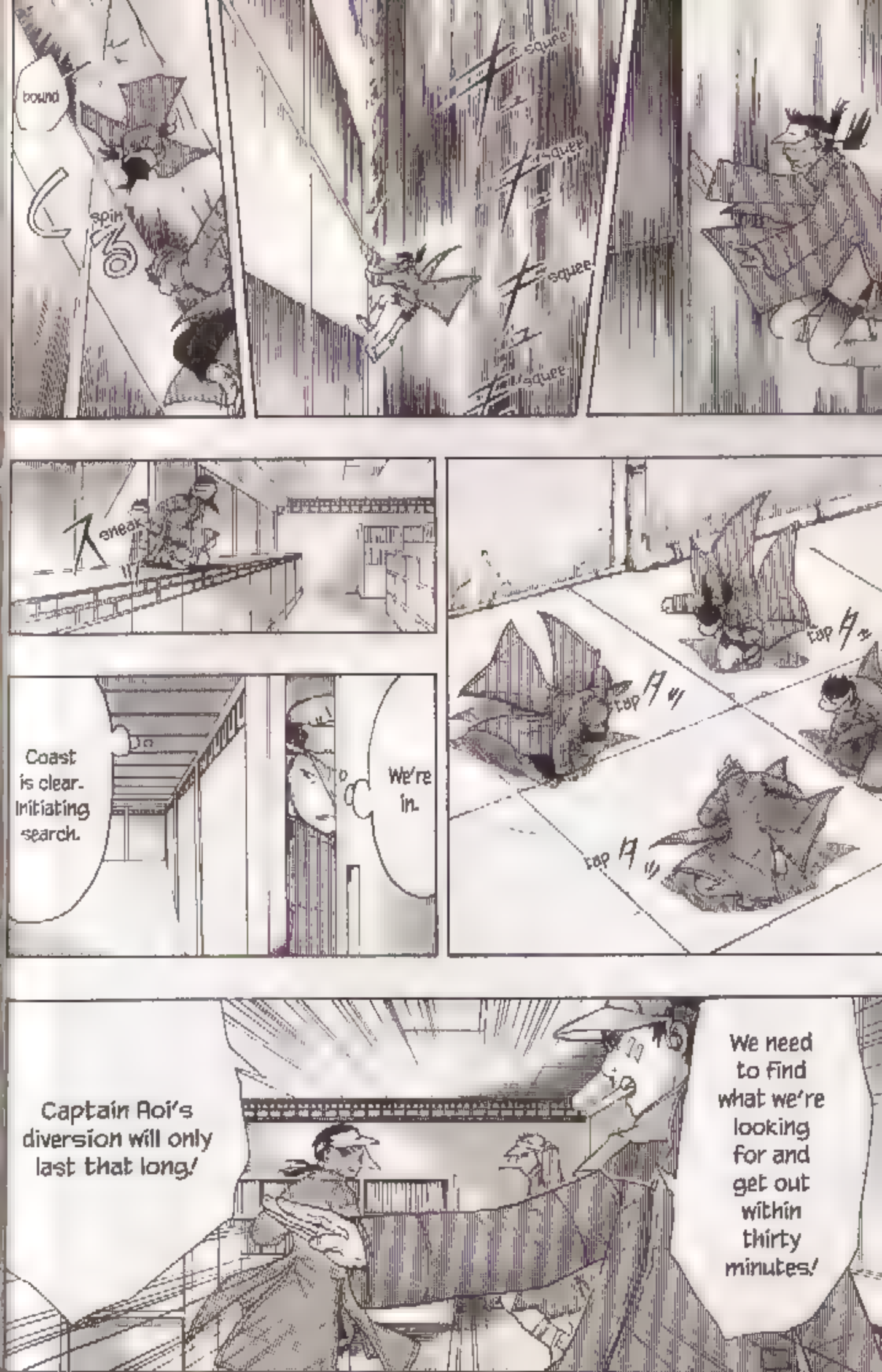
roll
roll
roll
creak
clutch
click
leap
A-ha ha, well? Having fun yet?
would have preferred entering through the front door
crawl
crawl

What? We're splitting up?
Oh, here's where we split up. I need to go this way.
...Will he be all right alone?
Don't worry. He is probably assigned solo because he's a captain.
Yup! I've been told to stand by at a different point.
You two just need to follow the protocol we covered earlier, OK?
I'm more concerned about you going overboard.
Besides which...
It's just his personality. Think that, and you won't worry so much.
But... I always feel kun goes overboard when he's by himself
I guess...
Day before yesterday.
M...me!? When have I gone over-board?

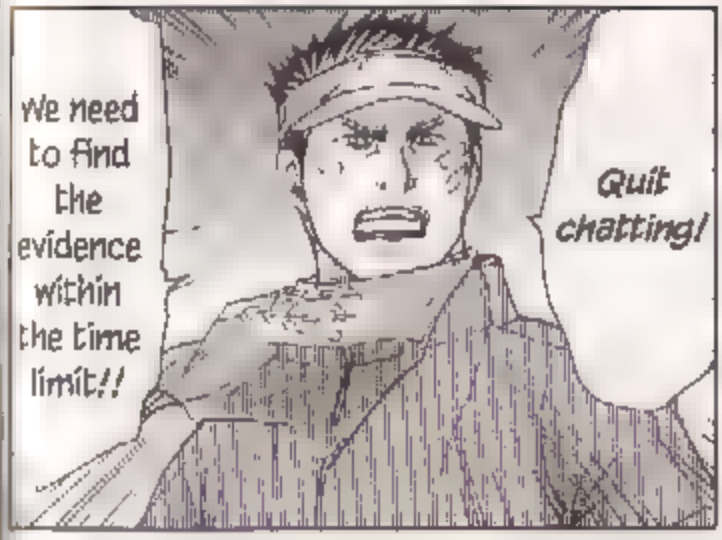

whoooo
whoooo
whoooo
whoooo
whoooo

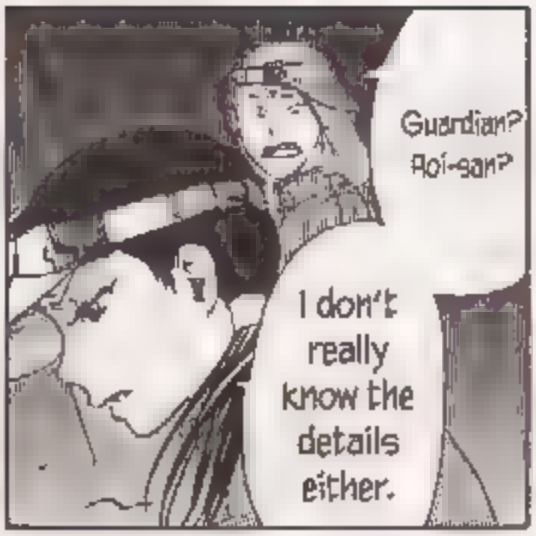
We've received word from below. The captain has successfully infiltrated.
We'll be going in now. Akane, Masato, Yukiji, follow me.
Hibiki, you...

tug
I'll be entering through a different point See you later...
RIGHT!
leap
Let's go
whoooosh
whoooosh
whoooosh
whoooosh
whoooosh
leap

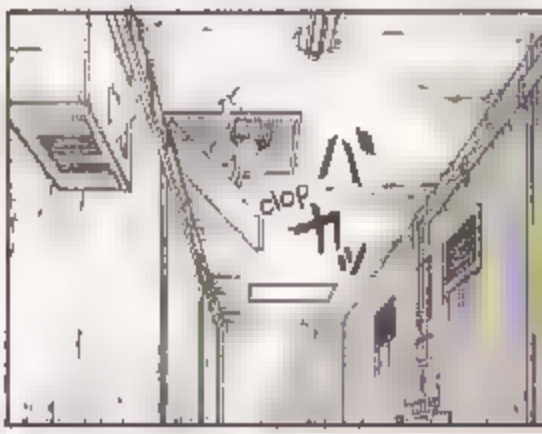

bound
spin
squee
squee
squee
squee
sneak
tap
tap
tap
Coast is clear. Initiating search.
We're in.
Captain Aoi's diversion will only last that long!
We need to find what we're looking for and get out within thirty minutes!

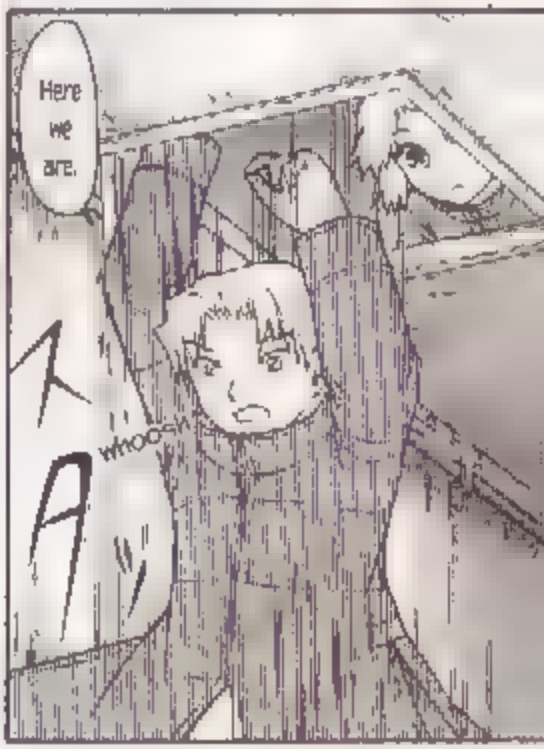
By the way, where'd Hibiki go?
It's a huge problem if a Mikuni government official really is involved in Dracule-related crimes.
That's how bad the situation is.
This is tough, using just this one photo to find the guy among all these directories
D-20
D-21
He's always going off on his own.
And Captain Aoi never seems to mind.
A different location? What the?!
Don't ask me. It came from above.
I heard he'd be searching a different location.
Captain Aoi apparently is Hibiki's legal guardian. From long before he entered Squad Six.
So maybe it's natural that she's partial to him?
Well, that's how it's been ever since he was transferred to Squad Six. Captain Aoi seems to indulge him.
What's the big deal about him?


We need to find the evidence within the time limit!!
Quit chatting!

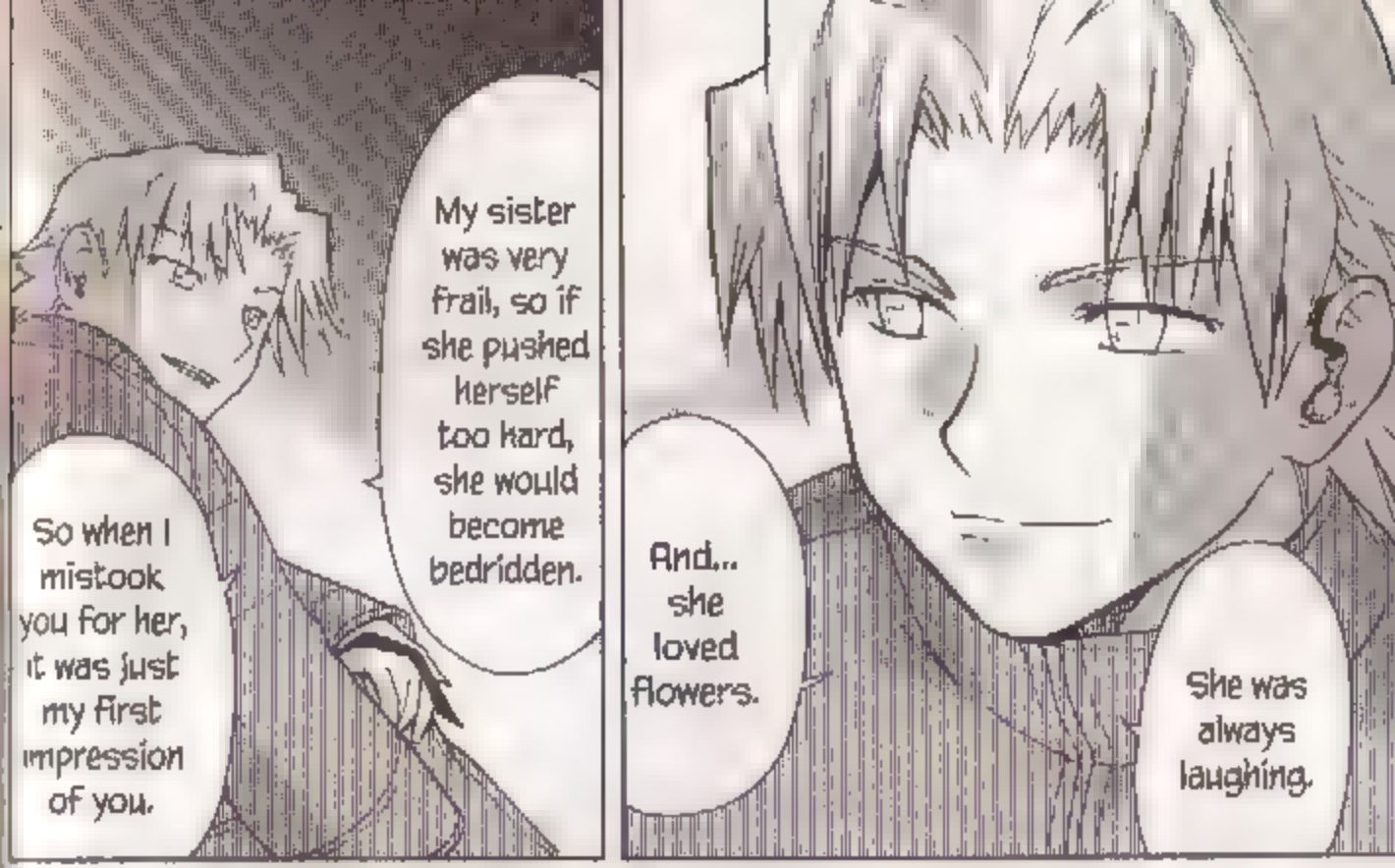

Guardian? Aoi-san?
I don't really know the details either.

If we receive the signal, we have to break through this wall and apprehend everyone on the other side.
Yes.
They're all human, so we need to be careful, but not so much that they can turn on us, OK?


clop

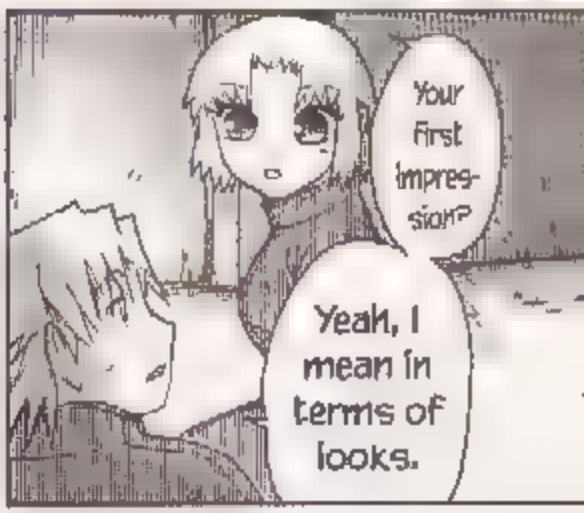

Here we are.
whoosh

Which reminds me, wasn't there a time you mistook me for your sister?
!
You're right.
tick tock
tick tock
?
?
Wow... , feel like it's been a long time since it was just the two of us.
What was she like, your sister?
Huh!? Oh... well...
Oh yeah, The first time I met you
...

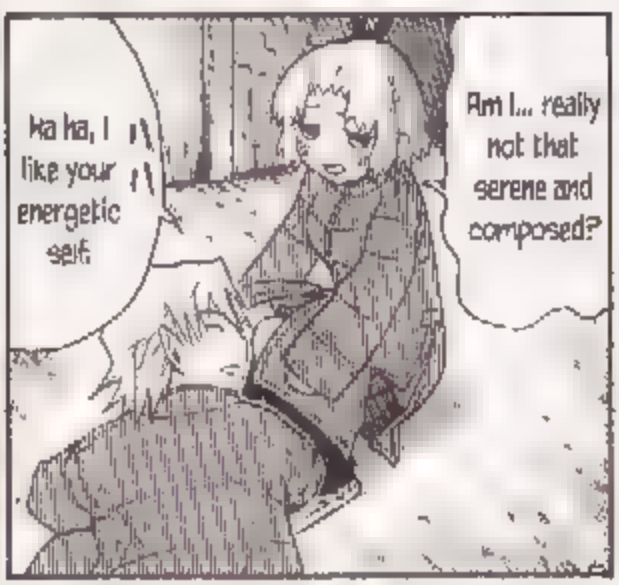

My sister was very frail, so if she pushed herself too hard, she would become bedridden.
So when I mistook you for her, it was just my first impression of you.
She was always laughing.
And... she loved flowers.

.....
I mean that in a good way! Yeah!
Oh, no,

Because in terms of personality... you're a bit spunkier.


Your first impression?
Yeah, I mean in terms of looks.

Yup, cheery and full of energy.


Ha ha, I like your energetic self.
Am I... really not that serene and composed?

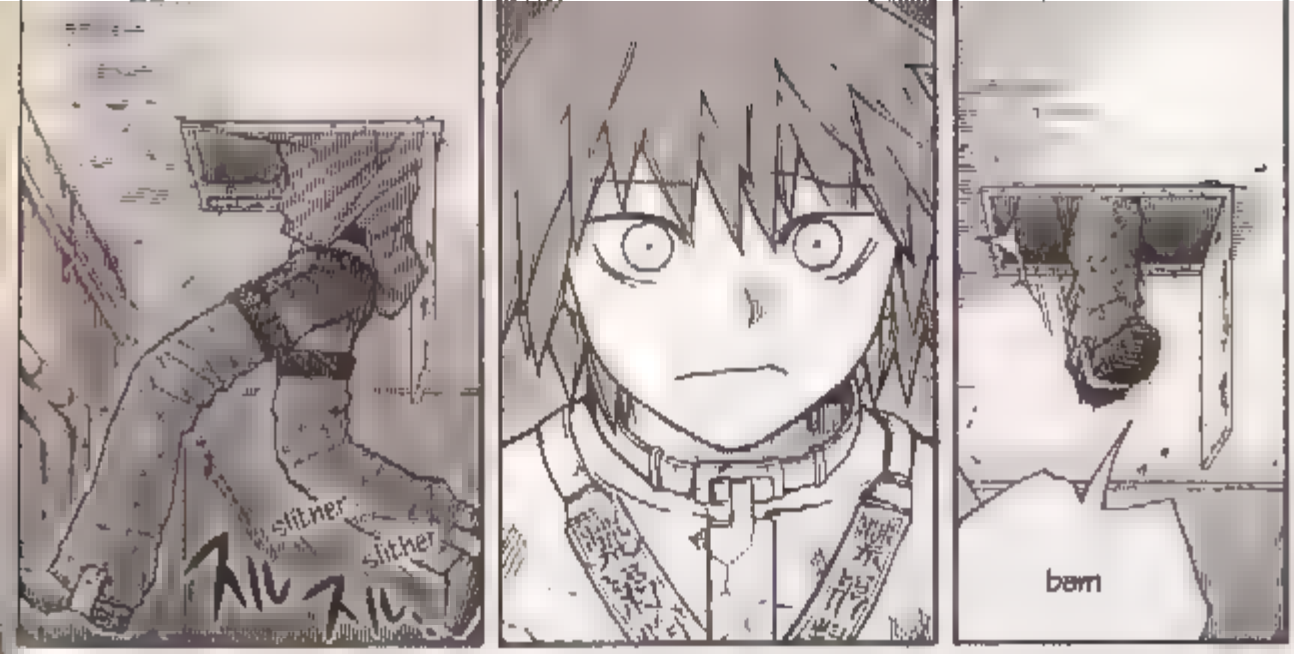
Sôsei-san, what really happened in that cave during our last mission?
...
...Can't keep anything from you, eh?
We ran into them in the cave by pure happen-stance.
I saw three of them.
Huh?
What do you know?
When I mentioned the name Daraku earlier, you said "them."
I see... so that's why Issa-kun didn't give me the whole story!
I didn't tell you because it's supposed to be top-secret classified information... sorry.
What!?
They didn't see us, but I could tell they were dangerous fellows.

He told you about that?!!
Because I did hear how terribly it went for you.
But thank you for telling me...
That's when you injured your leg, right?
What!?
But I'm glad it's only sprained!
...Right.
And Issa-kun seems no worse for the wear either.
Yeah.
And how hard it was to extricate you.
That while you two were running away, you slipped and your leg got stuck in a crack between boulders.

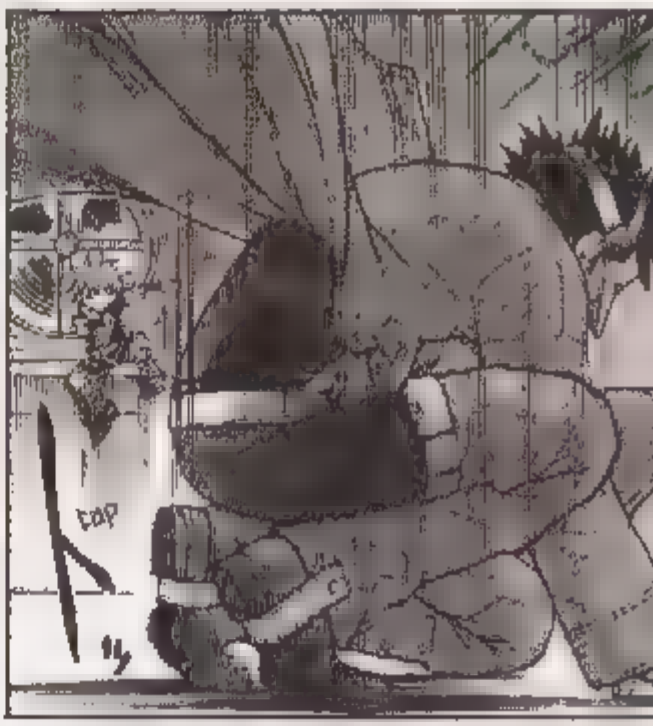
...This is the spot, right?
.....
climb
climb
ween
ween
trot
trot
ween
ween
ween
ween
ween
ween
...So what am I supposed to wait for here?

vween
Exhaust pipe on my left...
Er... "When you receive the signal, launch strike through exhaust pipe on your left"... huh.
vween
vween
vween
Either way, to assign a single person to attack is pretty slipshod personnel distribution.
vween
Wait, maybe I can reach in further with my leg.
I can only get my left hand in.
And no one is showing up.
Owww!
Phew-whee!
RAP

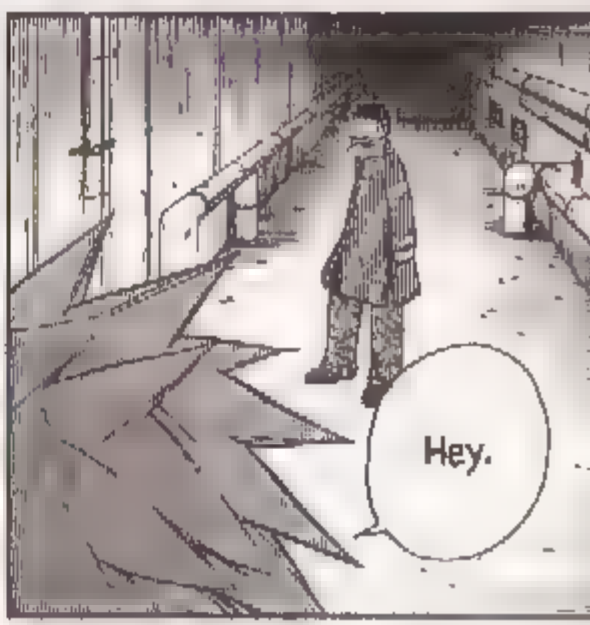
But I can't tell them how I got injured... I really thought it would heal on its own by now...
I probably should have had it checked out by the doctors.
In any case, now that I've already lied about it once...
Maybe it was being crushed by that boulder at the end that did it?!
I guess that *was* a lot of Dracules all at once. Then again, Yukimura recovered pretty quickly...
!
flicker
clunk
clop
creak
I guess I just have to grin and bear it until it heals.


slither
slither
スル スル
bam

Am a cock-roach or some-thing?
What a place to choose...!


tap

You've got the wrong place.


Hey.

But never mind that, Kazuma-san, I want you to spar with me.
I know.
Spar? Where?
No, no.
I swear you're mistaken, 'cuz this is my spot.
No, this is it.
Eh?
Eh?
Here
launch
You mean that's your mission assignment?
Hanana
Yeah, right.

strain

strain

strain

strain

What... do you think...

Wham

Wham

Wham

Wham

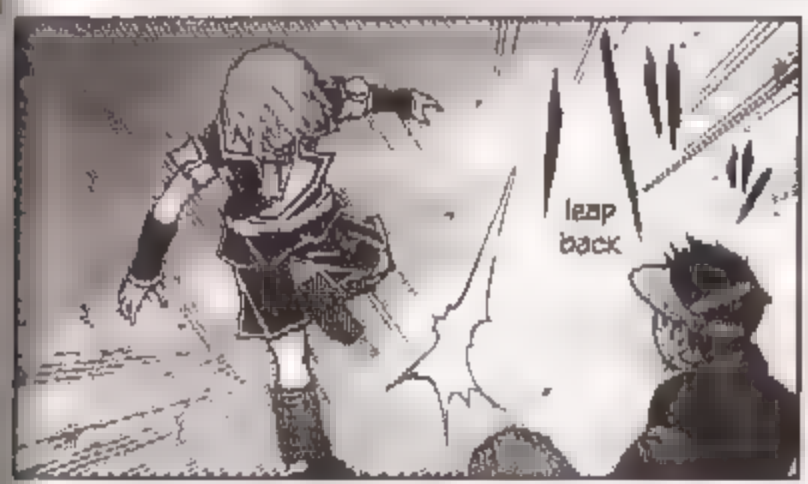
Spin
Thurl
Thurl
you're doing?!!
Are you stupid?! We're in the middle of a mission! Wait until afterwards!!
I'm sparring with you.
That's why this is my only chance.
Yeah! There you go! It's prohibited!!
But sparring with squad captains is normally prohibited.
Don't worry. No one will hear us or come here.

clop
clop
Through where?
Here.
Wha!!? I've got my mission assignment!! If the signal comes, I've got to launch a strike!!
Whoa!
whip
whip
There's nowhere to strike from this basement.
What are you talking about! I've got my instructions right...!!
Huh?! Don't tell me this was a trap?!!
Now do you see?

dash
Ugh!
Unh.
whip
clash
strain
strain
strain
strain
strain

So why do I have to spar with you again?!!
You have a problem with it?
strain
strain
Yes, I do!!!
Since I'm the one that's going to get in trouble for it!! Get it?!!
Don't worry. I've already gotten clearance from a superior.
strain
strain
strain
strain
Wha..?!
I've heard all sorts of rumors about your strength...
but you never know if they're true until you actually square off.
So what! Why do you need to know?!
And what rumors?!

And... about that "Dragon Eye" or some such on your forehead...
About how you were assigned to the old Squad Zero six years ago, which was prematurely dissolved only one year later.


leap back

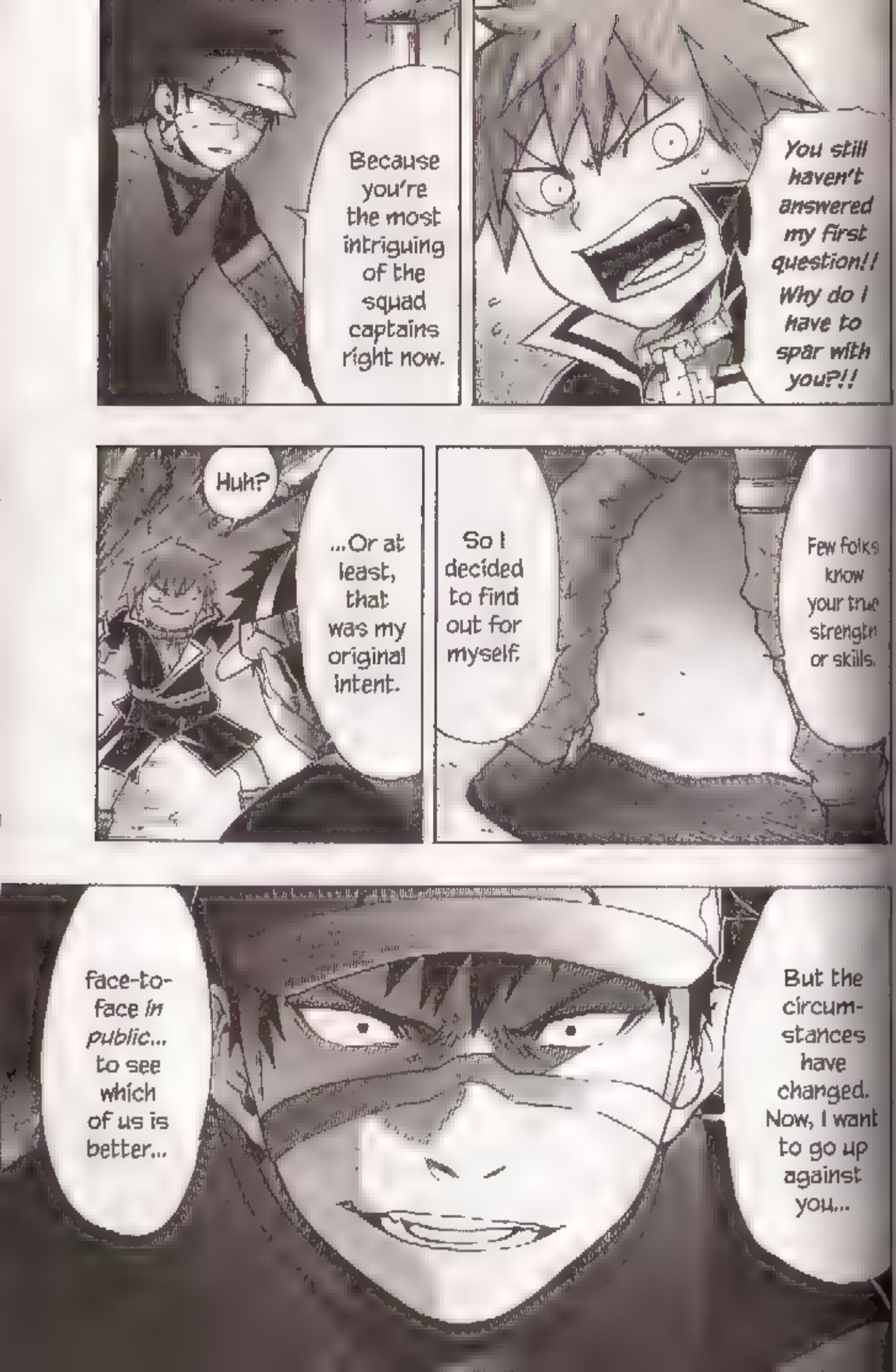
!

Huh?
Fine, I know all about you too, Hibiki Masamune.

Ho.
So what!? Everybody knows those!!

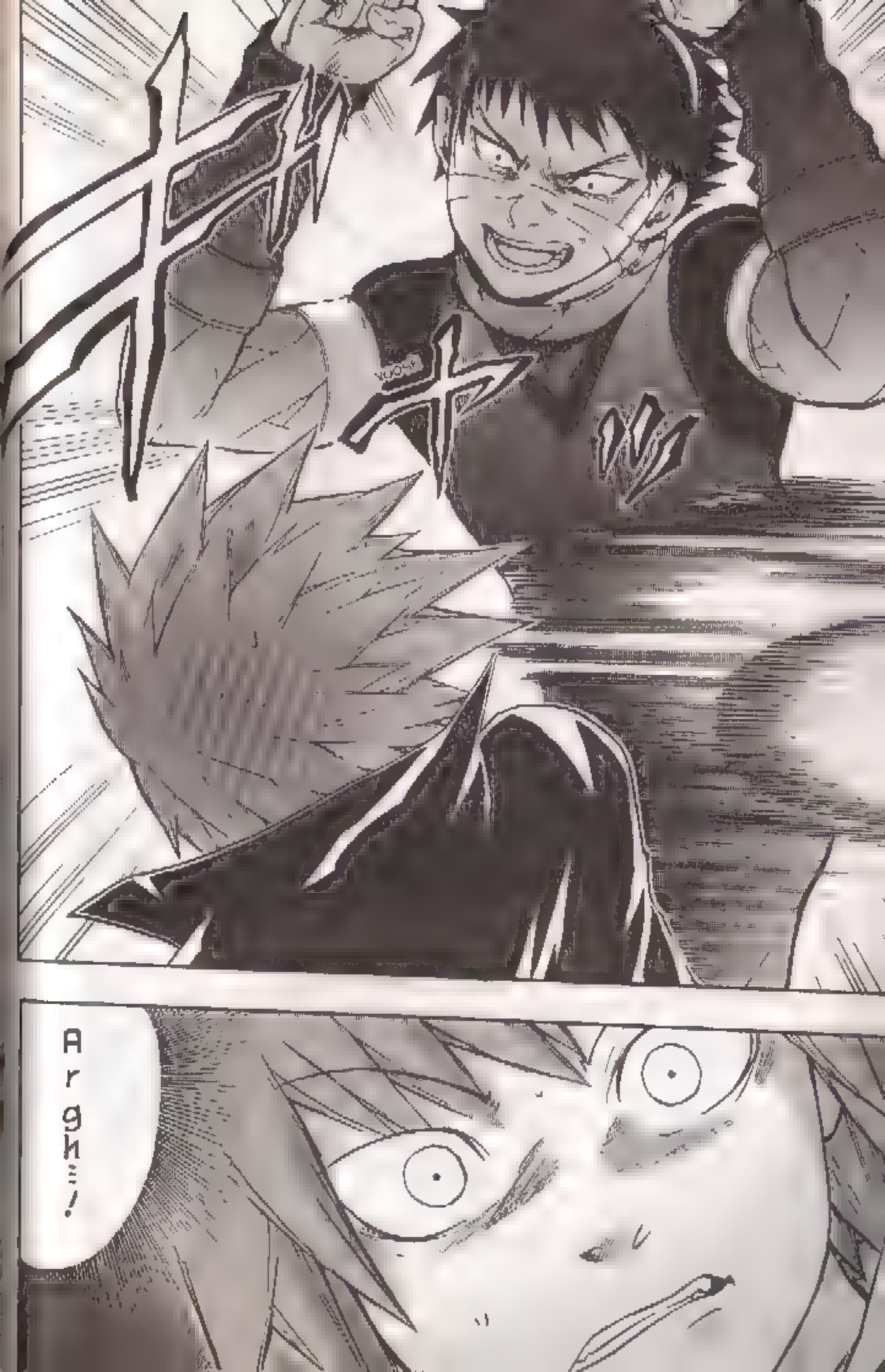
You've trained for the sole purpose of becoming a VIUS. A born and bred warrior, you are.
Was it about ten years ago... that you were "picked up" and brought to Mikuni VIUS? Your legal guardian is Aoi Shizue.
.....
I joined at age ten.
You got one thing wrong.
At an unprece-dented eleven years old, you entered Squad One. You stayed there about four years, then voluntarily transferred to Squad Six a year ago.
How's that?

...I don't like Sakuraba.
glare
Huh? Oh, really? So why'd you transfer?
Was Squad One too tough for you?
Wa-ha ha ha ha ha!
Whoa!
zwhoosh
zwhoosh

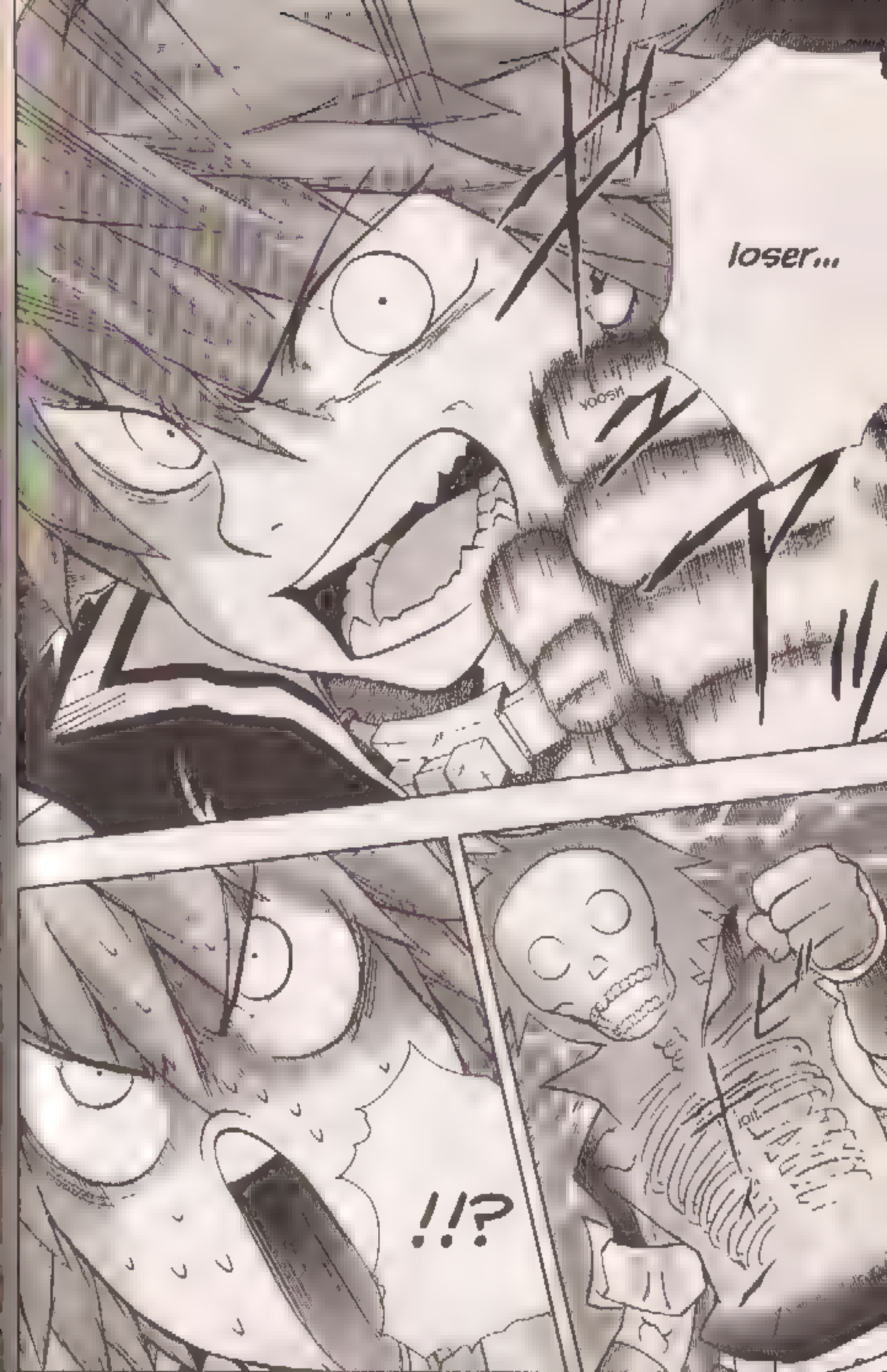

Because you're the most intriguing of the squad captains right now.
You still haven't answered my first question!! Why do I have to spar with you?!!
Huh?
...Or at least, that was my original intent.
So I decided to find out for myself.
Few folks know your true strength or skills.
face-to-face *in public*... to see which of us is better...
But the circum-stances have changed. Now, I want to go up against you...

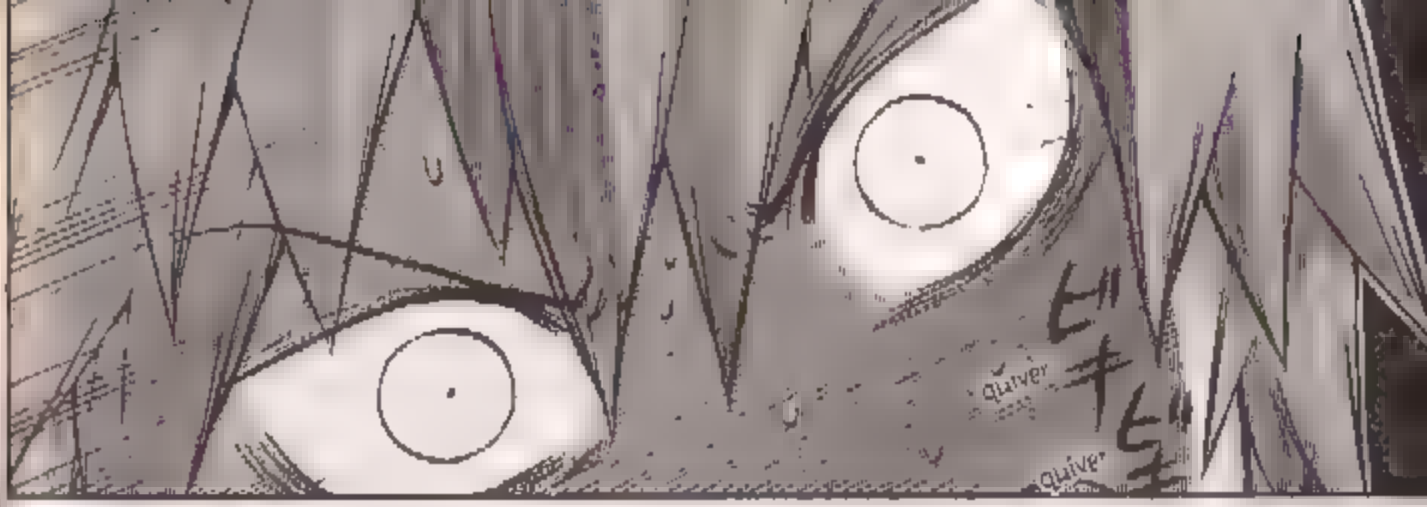
So I've decided to enter too.
What?!
It seems you're going to be the captain delegate in this year's exhibition tournament, Kazuma-san.
No thanks. Go get your kicks elsewhere.
And then I'm going to win against you, too.
I'm going to keep winning until I get to the finals so I can fight you.
I see.
Hmph.
Um...
Mmm, that actually sounds quite nice, especially if I earn it fair and square.
Are you planning to take over the Squad Zero captainship or something if you win?

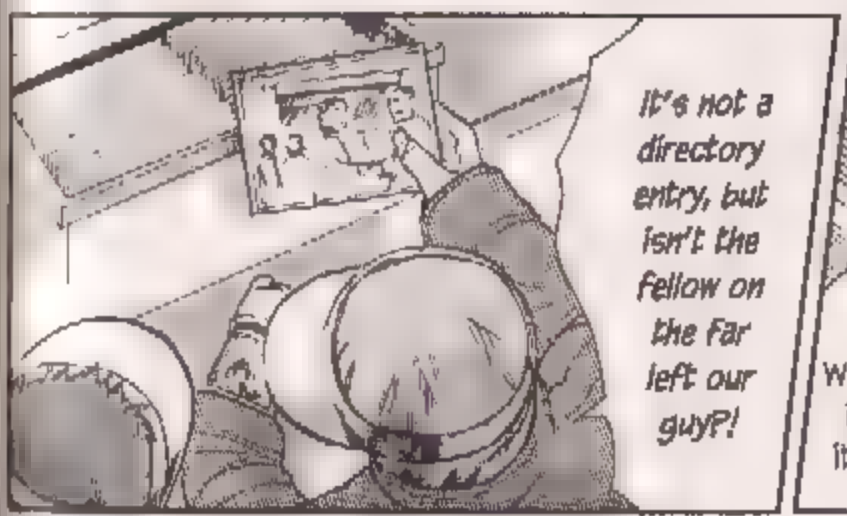
And I also have no interest in helping you relieve your boredom, so go find someone else to pick on.
Sorry to disappoint, but I'm not entering the tournament. Haven't heard anything to the contrary, either.
Are you running away, Kazuma?!!
Hun!


Argh!

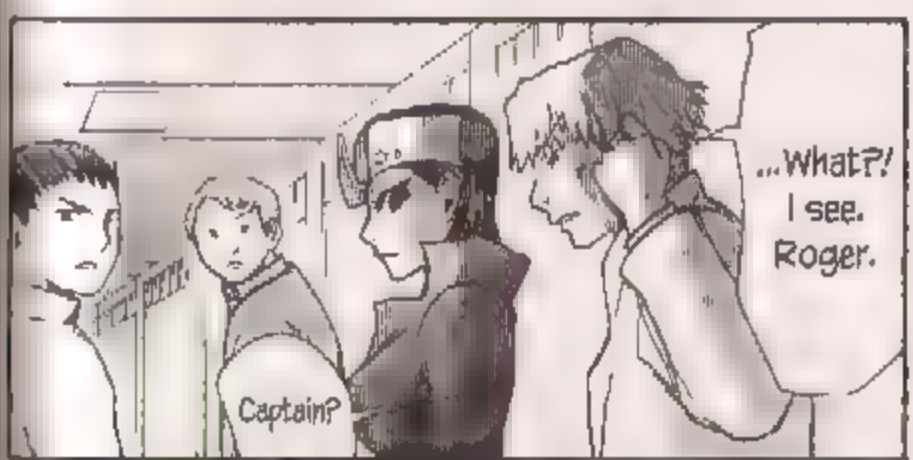
clad
thwack
You..
slam


loser...
!!?


quiver
quiver

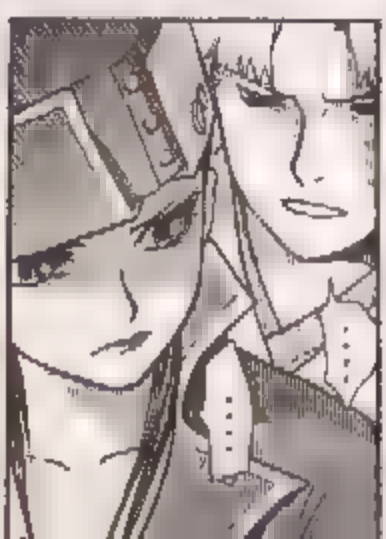

It's not a directory entry, but isn't the fellow on the far left our guy?!

Hey, look! This photo...!
What is it?!


...What?! I see. Roger.
Captain?

You're right...!!

District headman...
"Yes?"

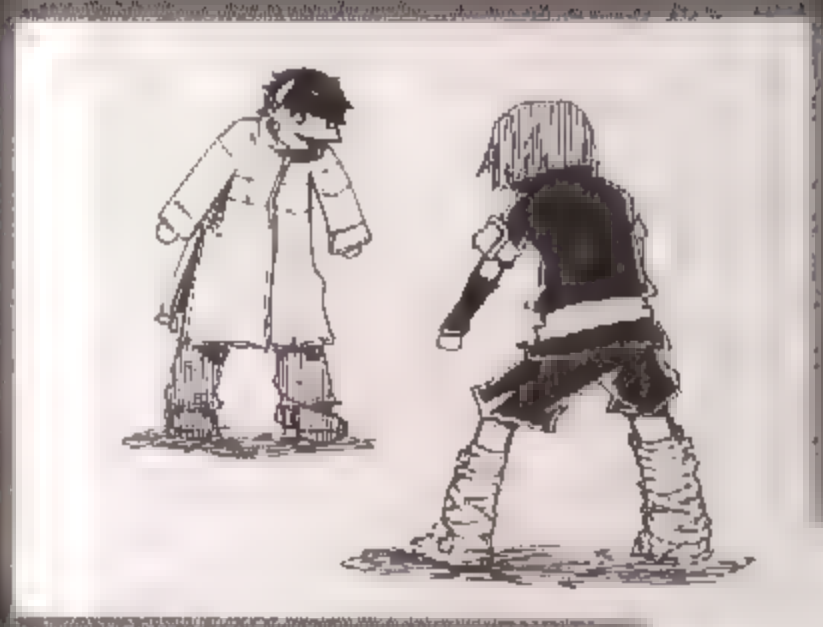


!
beep beep beep

What?!
You're not from VIUS Central?!
We would appreciate your cooperation in our ongoing investigation of Dracule-related crime.
We are actually of the Enforcement Corps of Mikuni VIUS. Please forgive our duplicity.
I'm sorry, but I cannot discuss anything at this time, except that you would merely be assisting our intelligence gathering.
Please understand.
Are you saying... that I was involved in the incident?
so please do not reveal our identity to your employees.
Subterfuge is necessary due to the sensitive nature of the offense.
beep beep beep
Mission terminated. There will be no strike. Withdraw!
V...very well. I will accompany you.

Repeat, no strike! Withdraw!
Withdraw!
You're not strong at all.
...sheesh.

Hack
"Damn"



Fight
Shake hands
Apologize
▶ Play card

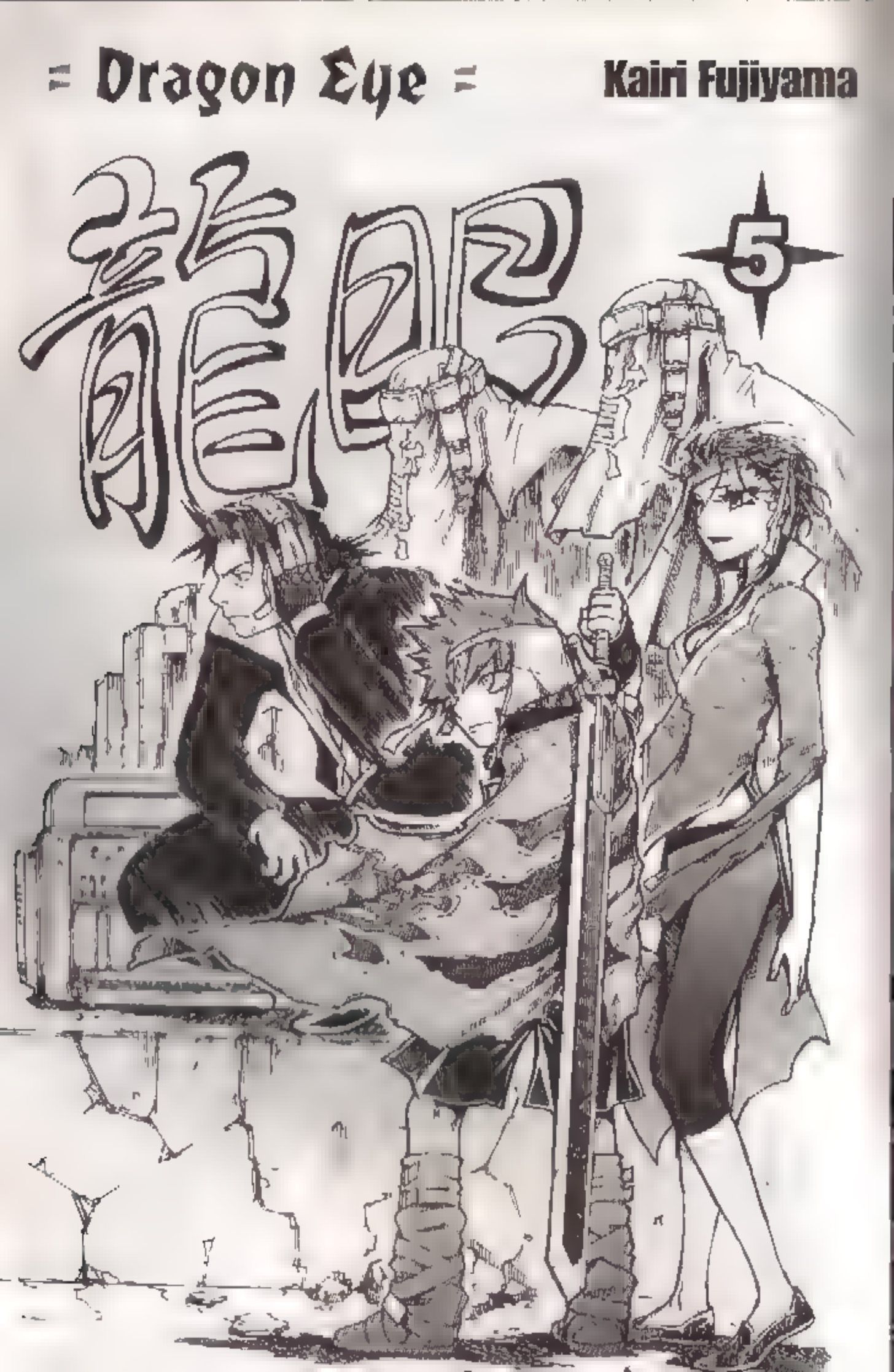
DRAGON
EYE
5
KAIRI
FUJIYAMA

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

竜眼

5



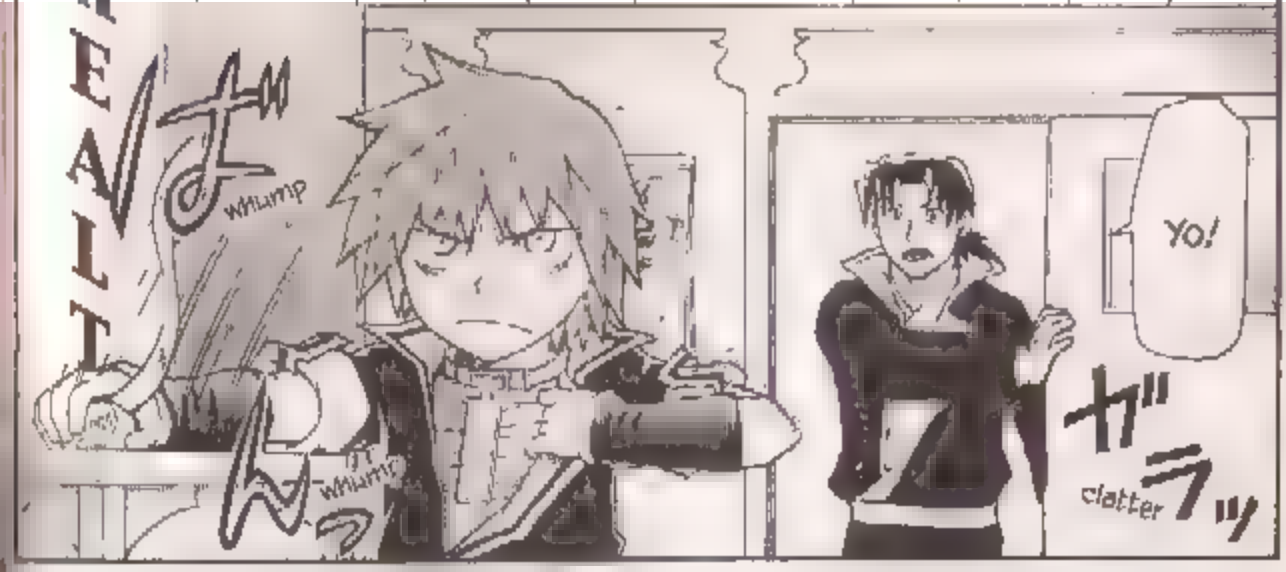
Mission ⓪ Thirteen
The Trap
5

Mission ⓪ Fourteen
The Cargo's Whereabouts
67

Mission ⓪ Fifteen
The Source of Discord
123

Extras
180

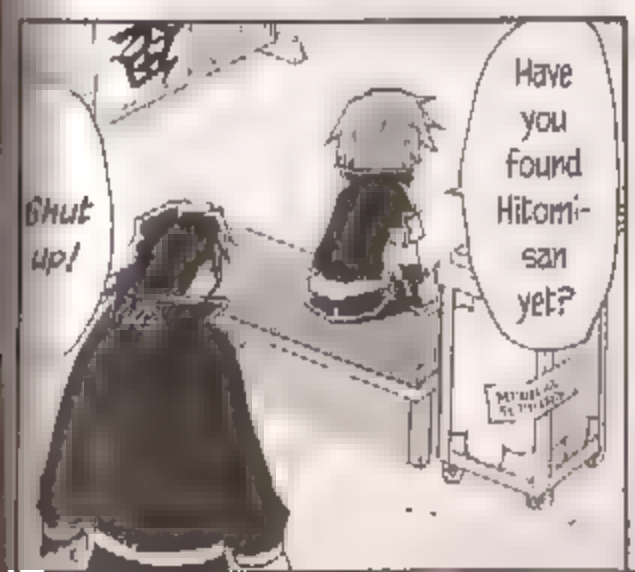
cinch
...OWW...
I think I can get away with just binding it tightly.
HEALTH
MEDICAL
...yikes, it hurts!


REALLY
whump
whump
Yo!
clatter

HAVEN'T HEARD A THING.
...I haven't even said anything yet!

Er, what are you up to?
...nothing.
Here you are!

Have you heard? According to rumor, you're...
I thought I ought to tell you...


Have you found Hitomi-san yet?
Shut up!

Huh?
What?
Shun'-ichi!!!
roll

Mission ⊙ Fourteen

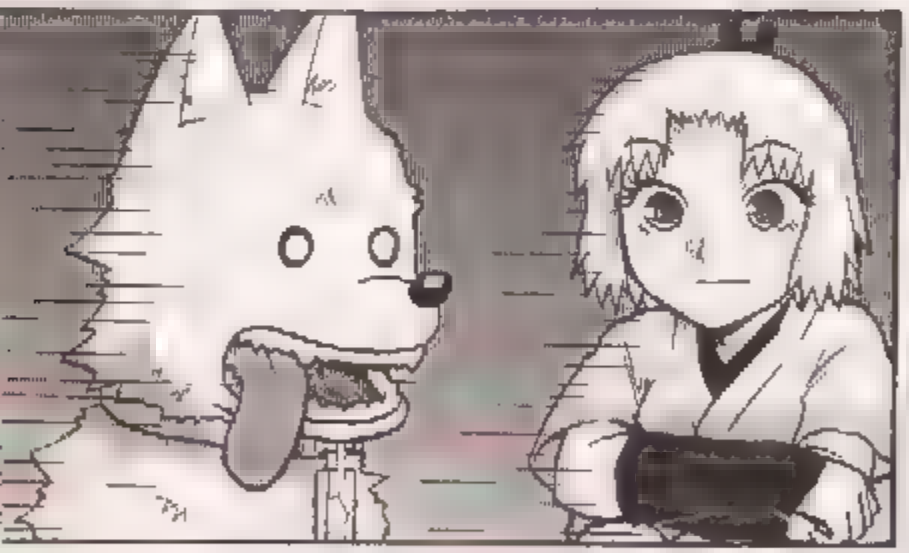
The Cargo's Whereabouts

I was running late, so I thought at least Sôsei-san would be here.
silence
There's no one here...
Good morn... huh?
clatter
This room is so dreary...
bare
I wish he would decide to stay in Squad Zero.
Sôsei-san's only temporarily assigned to us...
It's cleaner and less cluttered than before, but still no one's going to want to join our squad like this.
I keep forgetting about you because you're like a decoration...
That's right, you've been here from the beginning, too.
!

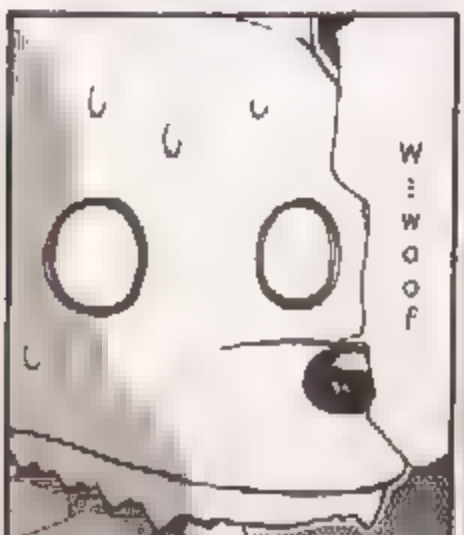
I hope I get to know you better.
You should at least have water available.

He did say he found you somewhere...
I hope Issa-kun's feeding you.

clink



Thanks?


W...woof

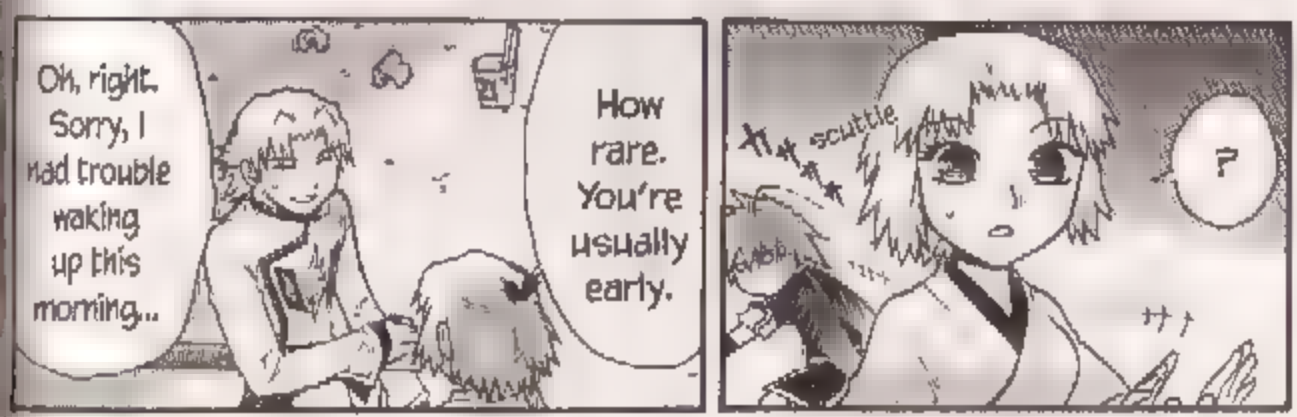
Oh!

drip
drip
Whoa!!
Issa-kun!! Just now, the dog, he...
clatter
Morning.
I'm not well today...!
B...be careful!!
...Issa-kun, is something wrong with your side?
phew
?
Oh, I thought you were going to kill me or something... ha ha.
Sorry!
But I haven't done anything!

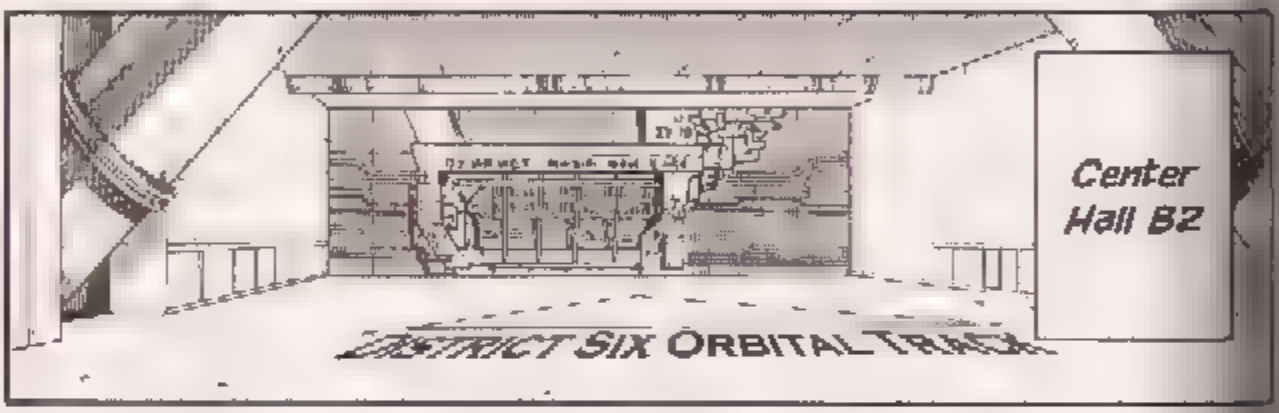
Breast
poke
I think it's br...
Yeah, a little.
Br...
br...
br...
"Br"?
Ah, whoops, a-ha ha... I meant...
thwack
thwack

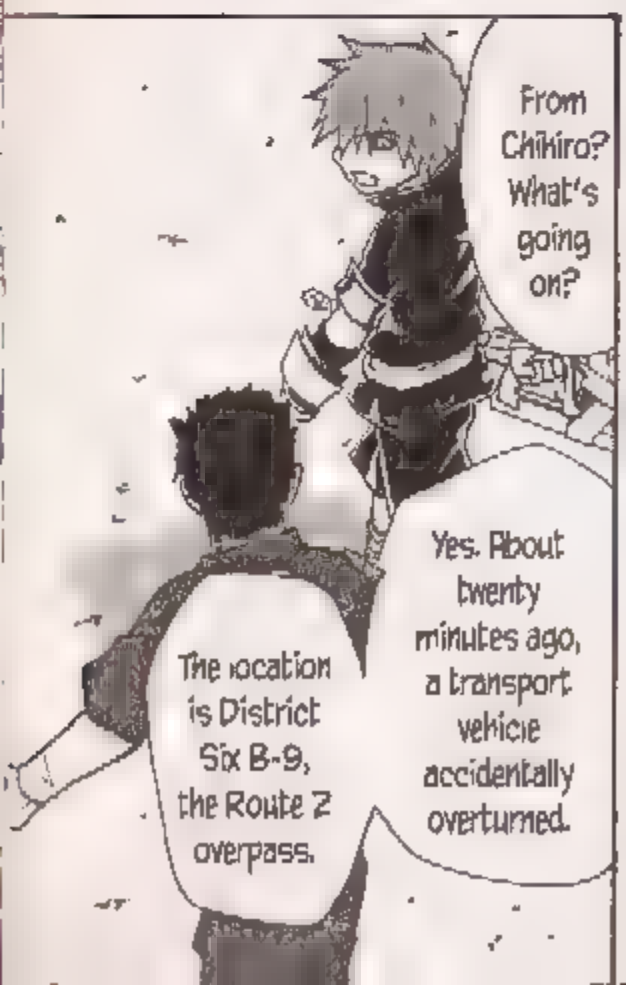
grrr
clatter
roar
What?!!
I didn't actually touch it!!
Same difference!!
G...good morning!
Oh! Sôsei-san!

Oh...
Good morning.


scuttle
?
How rare. You're usually early.
Oh, right. Sorry, I had trouble waking up this morning...

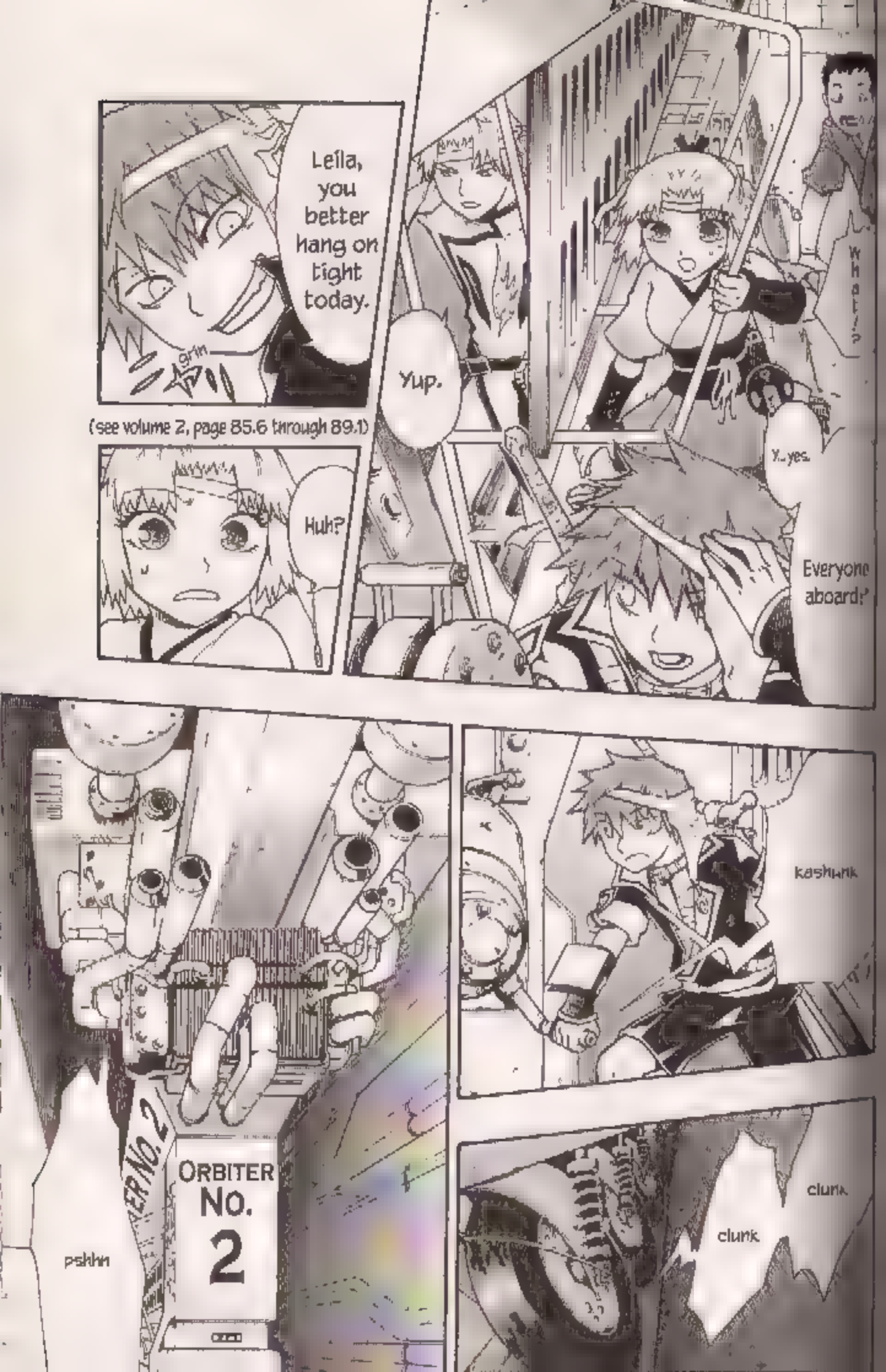
Squad Zero, emergency deployment! Please assemble in Center Hall B2, at once!!
vvee
vvee
vvee


Center Hall B2
DISTRICT SIX ORBITAL TRAIN

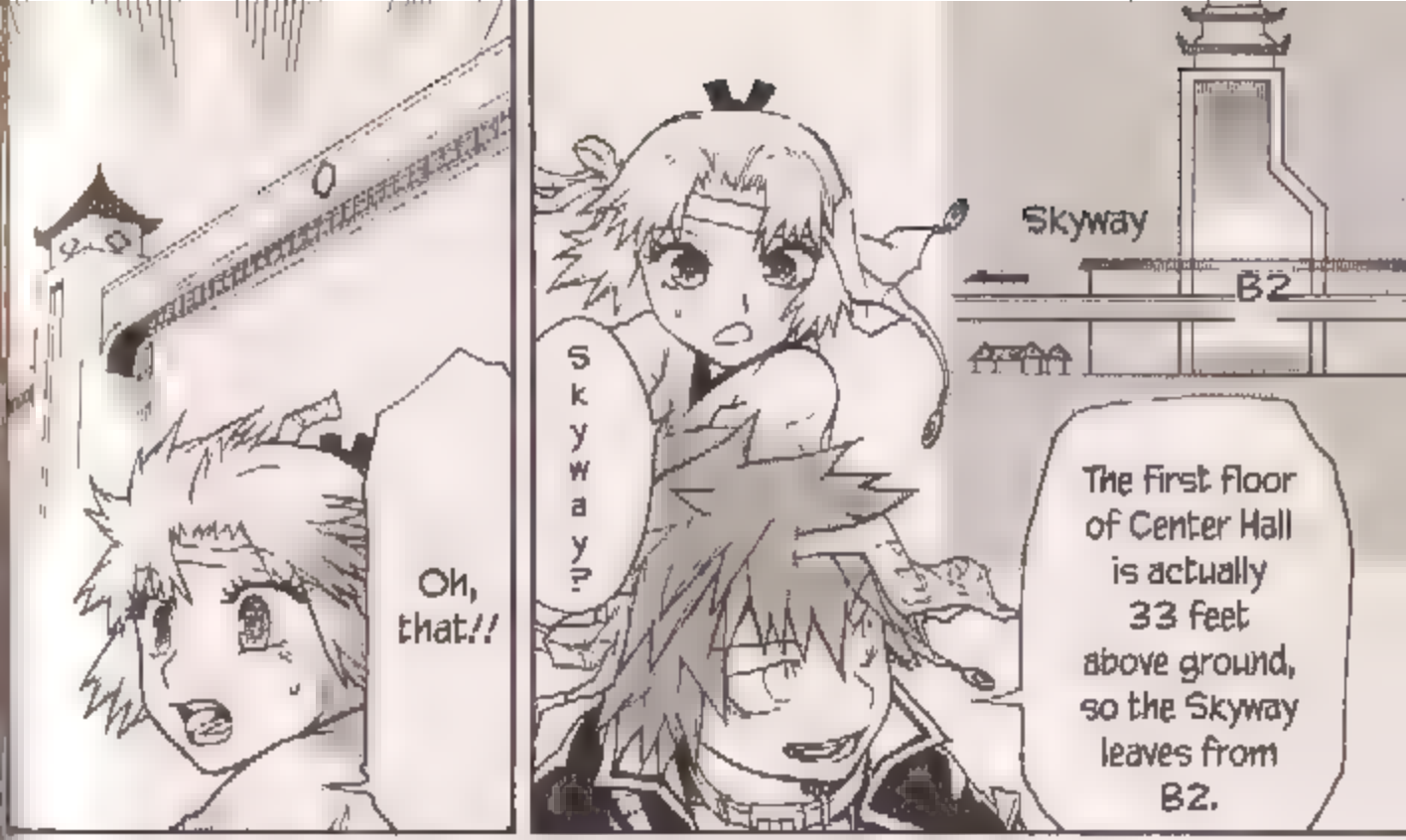

From Chihiro? What's going on?
Yes. About twenty minutes ago, a transport vehicle accidentally overturned.
The location is District Six B-9, the Route 2 overpass.

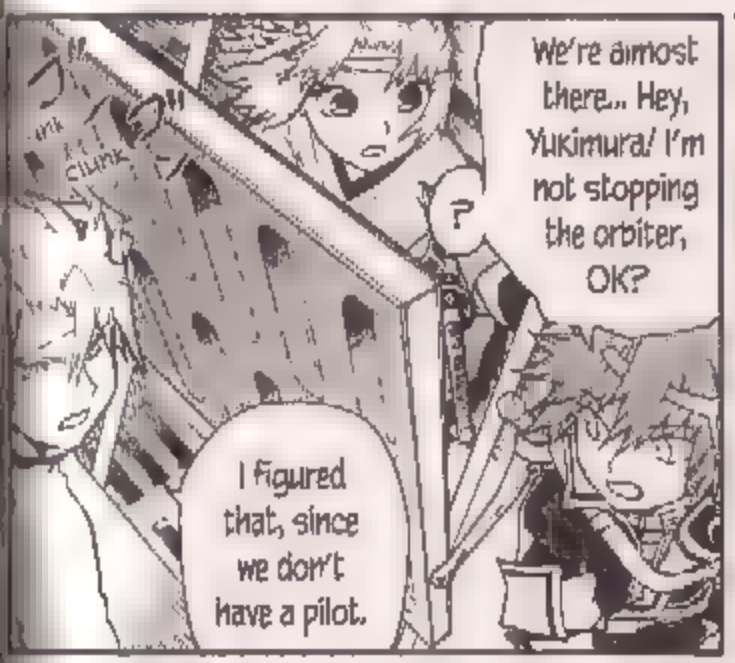
Kazuma san, good mornin'
We received a sudden call for assistance from Troop Chihiro...
and you're the only ones available right now.
It's outside your normal jurisdiction again, but we're counting on you!

Cargo?
Something about a large volume of spell notes spontaneously discharging...
step
step
There don't seem to be any major injuries, but it was apparently carrying sensitive cargo...
so they need more manpower in bringing the situation under control.
Leila, it's going to be a Chihiro job. Put on this mask veil.
Huh? O...oh, OK!
step
step
Yeah, yeah.
snatch
You'll receive the details on-site.
Kazuma-san, you need to wait for your pilot...!
Don't need one. And you'll be getting it back right away, so be ready for it.


Leila, you better hang on tight today.
grin
(see volume 2, page 85.6 through 89.1)
Huh?
Yup.
What?
Y...yes.
Everyone aboard?
kashunk
clunk
clunk
pshhh
ORBITER No. 2
ORBITER NO. 2

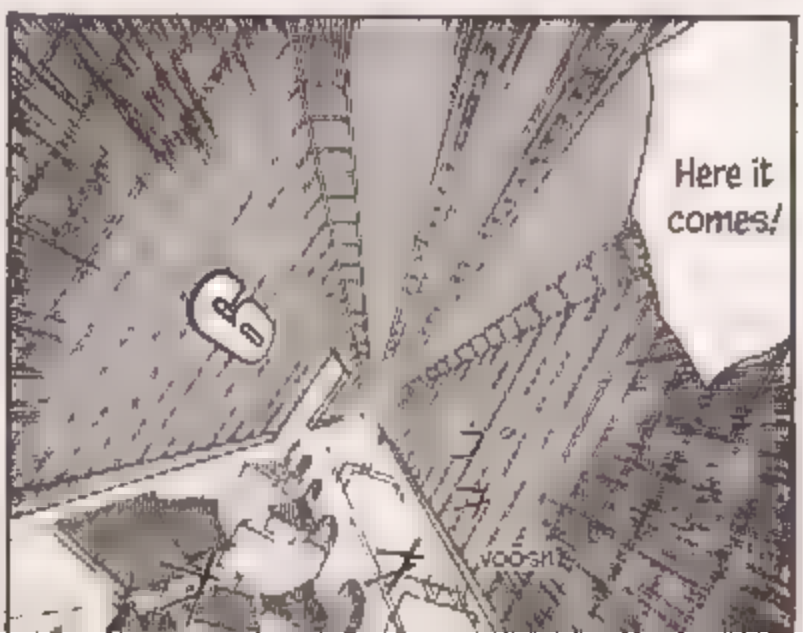
clunk
clunk
And where are we going!?
Wh... what is this!?
Look down.
D... down?!
!!
woosh
It's the city!
We launched from underground but we're above the city...!
clunk
zwhoosh
clunk
clunk
clunk


Oh, that!!
Skyway?
Skyway
B2
The First floor of Center Hall is actually 33 feet above ground, so the Skyway leaves from B2.


We're almost there... Hey, Yukimura! I'm not stopping the orbiter, OK?
?
I figured that, since we don't have a pilot.

Don't tell me you've never seen the Skyway go by?
Well, I've pretty much been holed up in the training hall... so this is why we can mobilize so quickly.

So how do we get off, then?


Here it comes!
VOOSH!!

What?
We're gonna fly, Leia!
yank
grab
leap
leap

!

Aieeee!!

There are muddled spell shields below.

That's it!

Slice the spell notes!

snap

Wai-!!

Mikuni

swing
unsnap
slash
slash
slash
slice
!
click

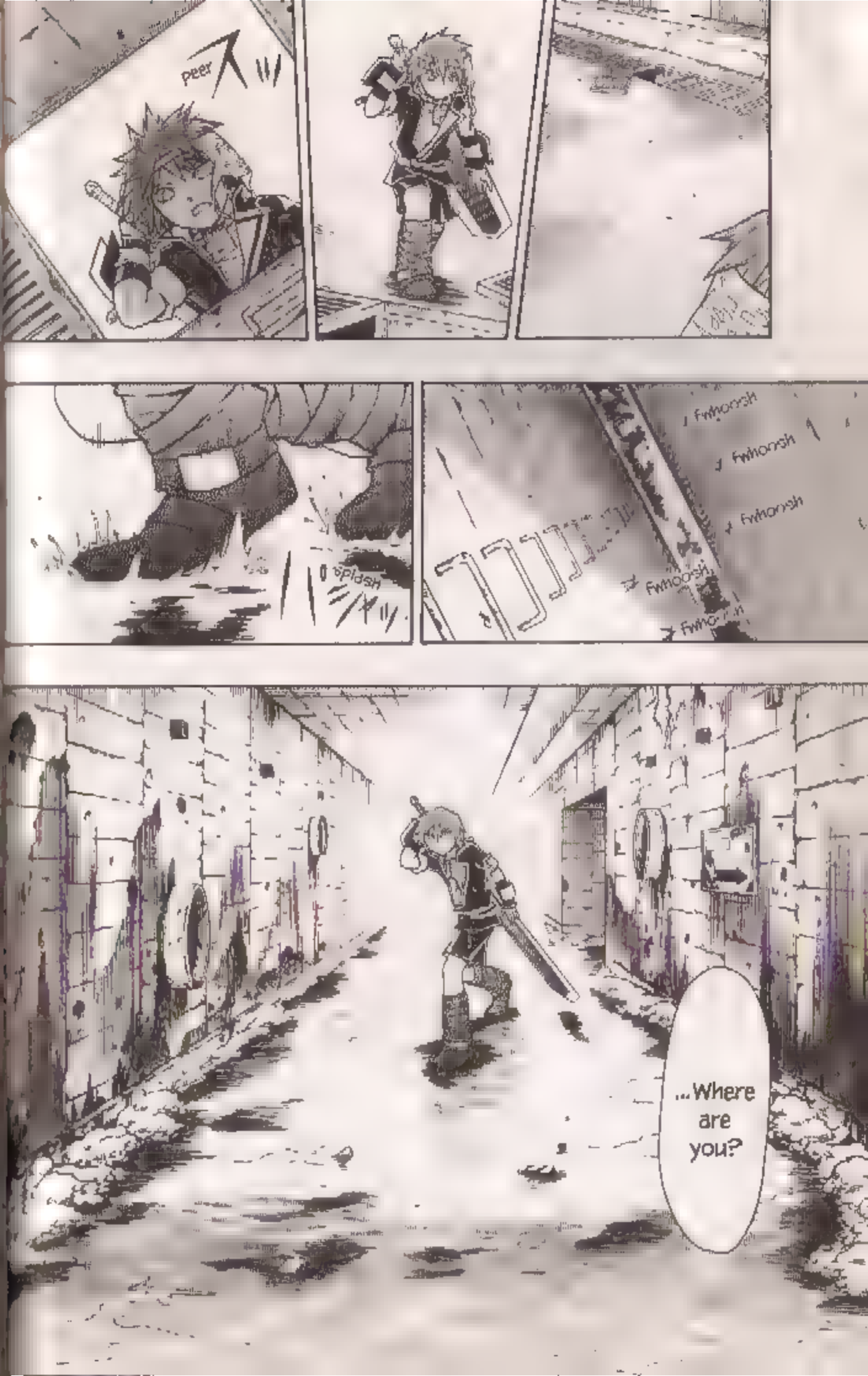
whoosh
slice
斬
slash
stab
rrip
whirr
tap

wobble
skid
What's the matter? That's not like you.
...Nothing.
whoooo
whoooo
whoooo
Squad Four captain!! Overpass block-off is complete!
Disarm the activated spell notes and recover the non-activated ones, stat!!
bustle
bustle
What about the evacuation of residents!?
Under way, ma'am.

bustle
bustle
dash
Squad Zero on-site! We're here to help. What's the situation?
Squad Zero? Oh, you're...
A huge stack of spell notes that was loaded in the overturned transport vehicle has gone amok!
We're trying to recover them quickly, but there are too many.
We'd like your assistance in both spell note collection and citizen evacuation!
Got it!
I'll disarm the activated shields and inspect the perimeter
Use my two squad members as you like!
Yeah, thanks!
leap

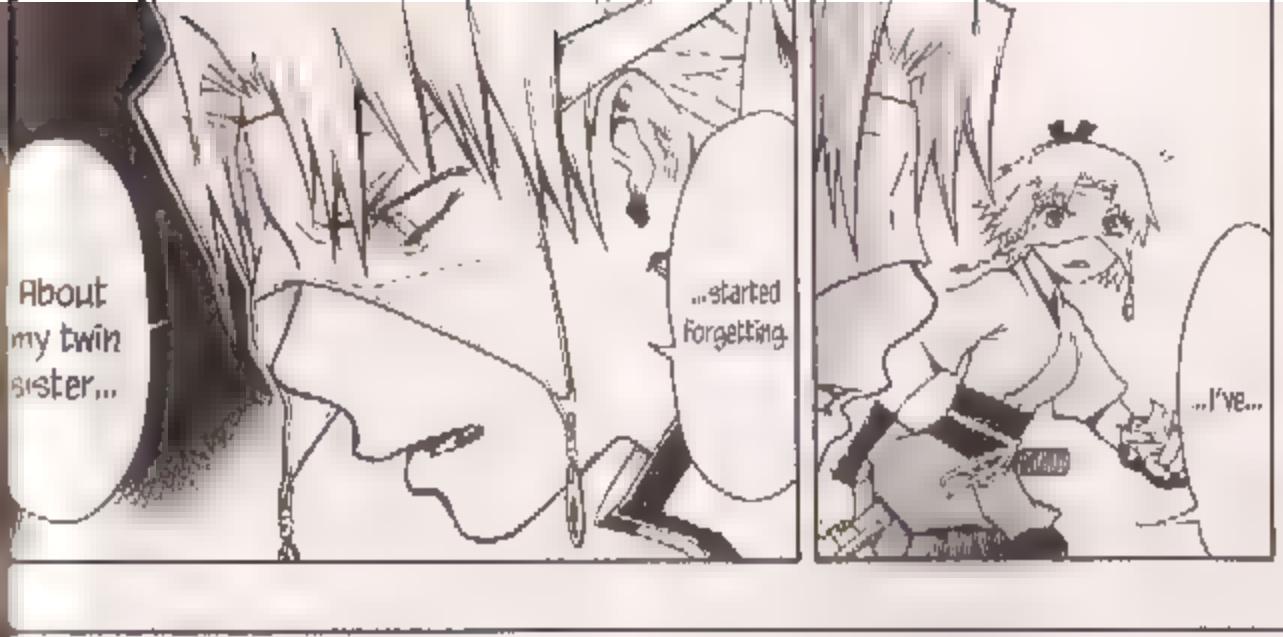
slash
slash
slash
slash
...So that's the much-rumored Squad Zero captain, huh.
!!!

Was it really carrying just spell notes...?
bustle
bustle
bustle
wrata
I didn't think we transported inscribed spell notes in large volumes.
What a large volume of spell notes.
peer
trot
trot
trot
Empty transport cases...
But why were they moving so many spell notes to begin with?
.....


peer
splash
fwhoosh
fwhoosh
fwhoosh
fwhoosh
fwhoosh
...Where are you?

There are more than enough non-activated spell notes alone.
We must gather them all before a strong wind blows!
click
click
click
Huh?!
Sōsei-san?
If a child happens ** to touch one
...
Oh, OK.
Y...yeah, I'm fine. Thanks.
You seem a little... off-kilter today, Sōsei-san Are you all right?
And Issa-kun's been rather quiet.
.....

** It reads: "If a child happens to touch one..."


About my twin sister...
...started forgetting.
...I've...

Even during missions...
And yet, now...
Soon after I joined Squad Zero.
Before that, not a single day had gone by these past six years that I didn't think about her.

Every once in a while forget
All right! Thanks!
We're on it!
leap
There's still a bunch above! They've activated in a link and Formn a rather large spell shield!
oh
trot
trot
Sōsei-san,
dash
dash
dash

I guess I'm too busy every day.
Me too.
I... used to think about my parents all the time, but ever since I joined Squad Zero, it's stopped.

I'm not sure how to say this, but I think it might be for the best.
So I have my hands full just with the present...

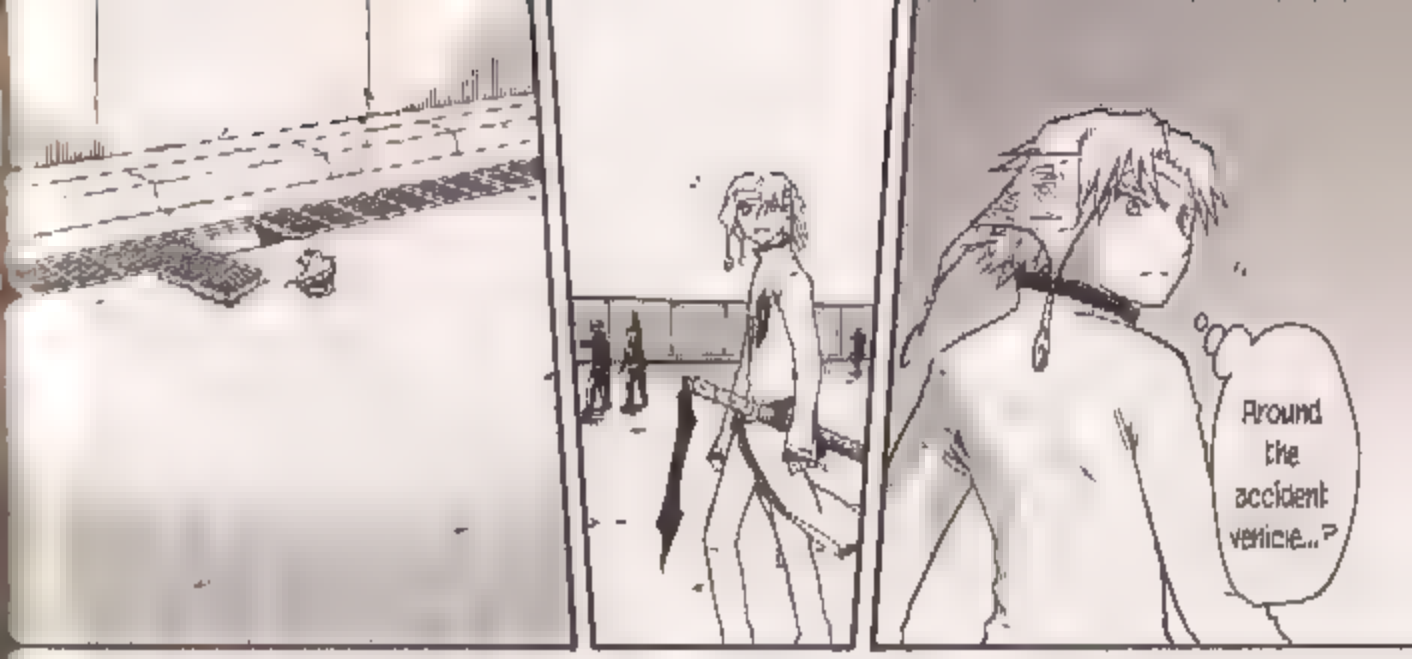
some problem's always cropping up...
Issa-kun's such a trouble-maker,

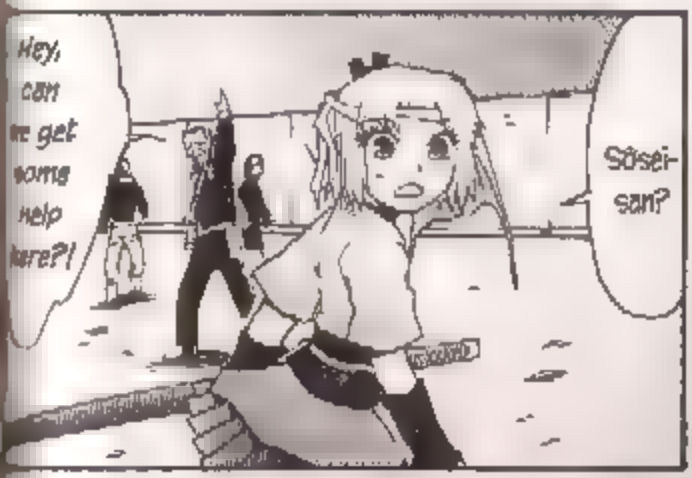
dash
dash
dash
dash
slam
slam

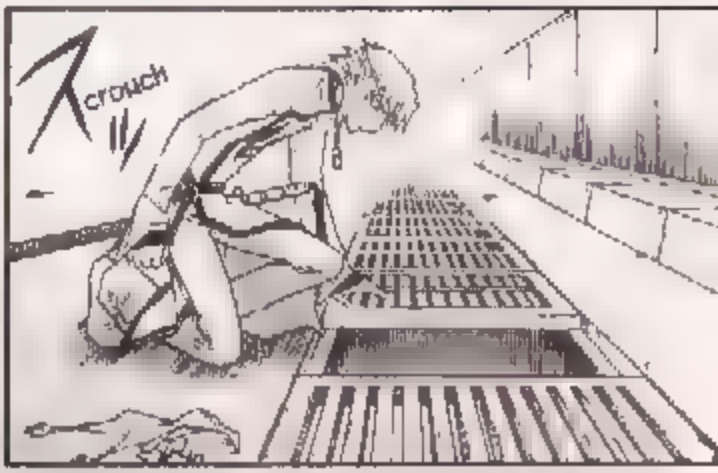
step
Not for me.
That's not good enough.
I mustn't forget.
ehehh...

kashink
launch
slice
slice

Squad Four captain!
Oh, there you are.
Captain! We've almost finished disabling all the spell notes on the west side.
Is that so? Good work!
The north side is also near completion.
Those Squad Zero reinforcements sure help.
The east side is completed.
Thank you. Please go aid the other reinforcements now.
I think he's off disabling spell notes somewhere, but...
scritch
Now that you mention it, he was investigating around the accident vehicle earlier.
Um... where is our captain


Around the accident vehicle...?


Hey, can we get some help here?!
Sōsei-san?

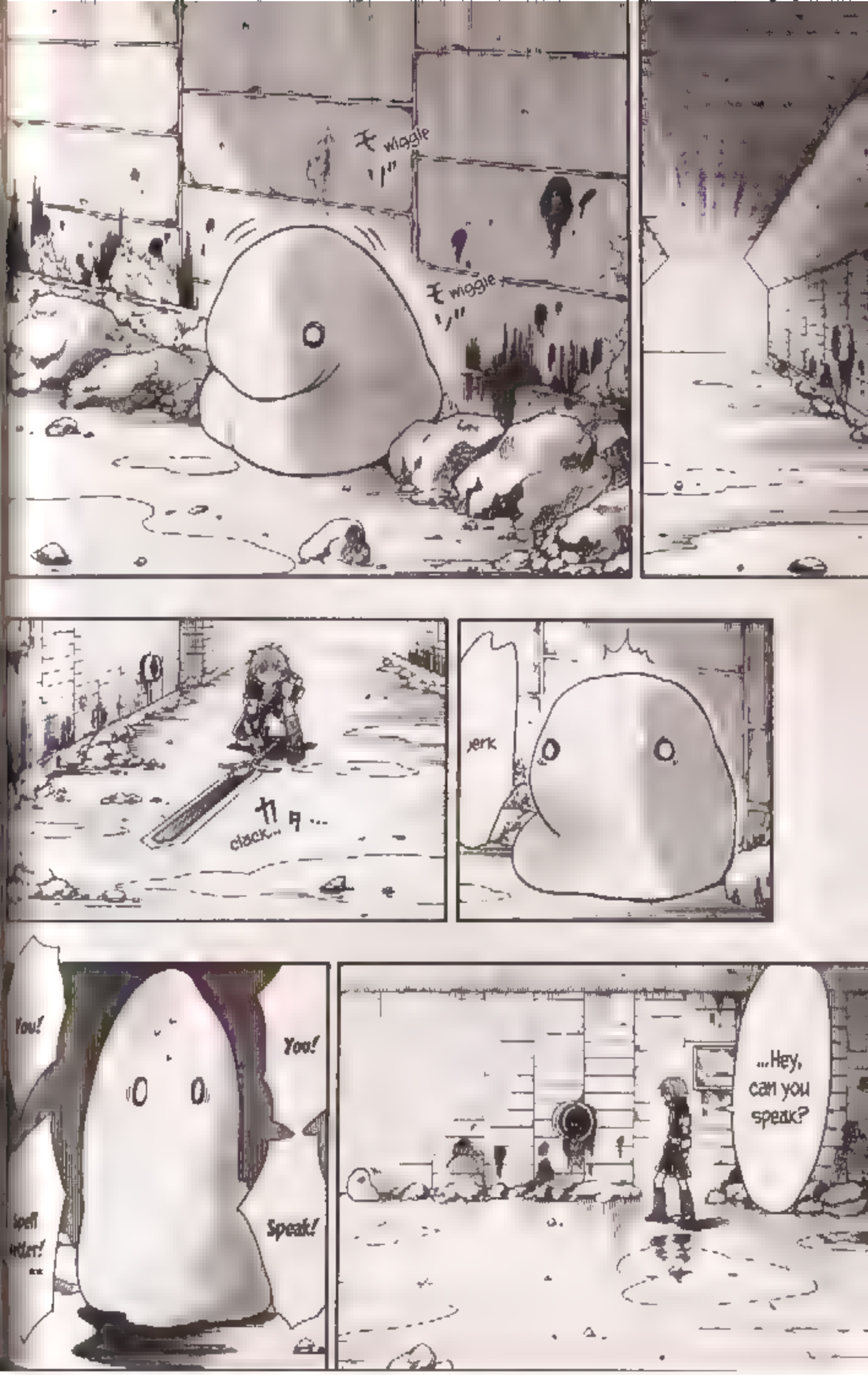

crouch

.....

Sigure!

splish

Maybe even...
trot
trot
trot
I bet there was something else, too.
It's har to believ they would ... transp a larg volum of spe note
splash
!!
...it's there!



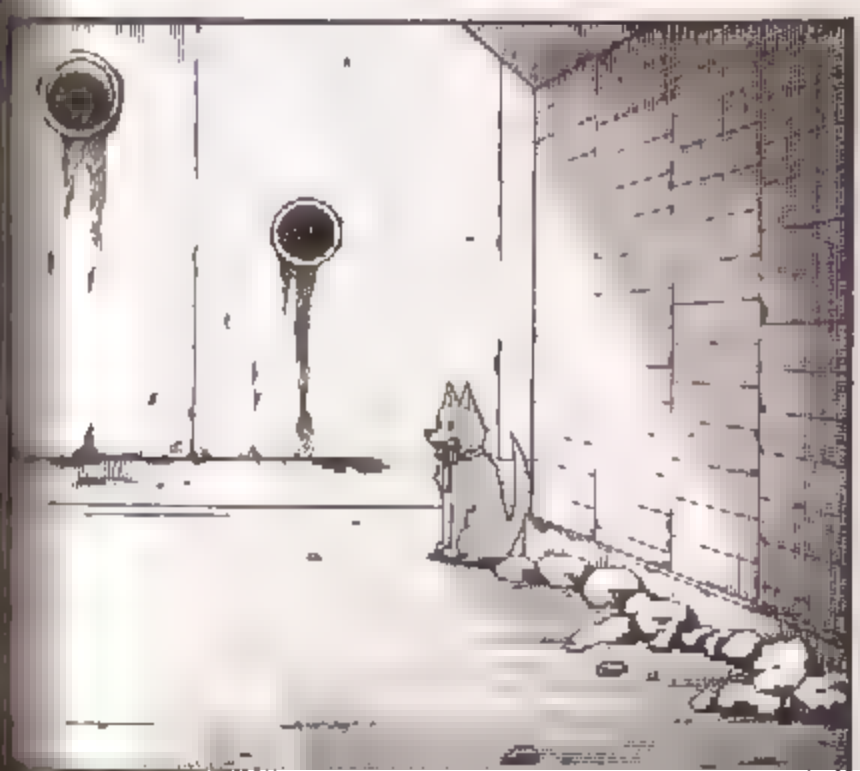
** It reads: "Spell fetter!"

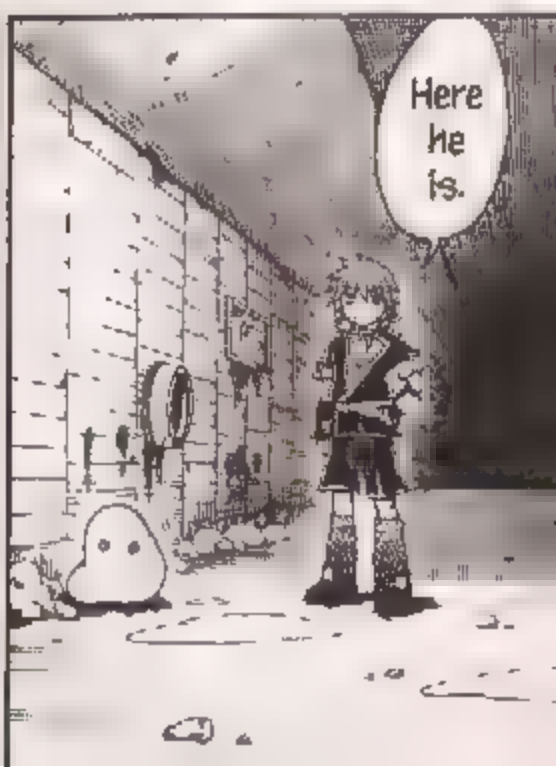
!
Igunido!
But just echo'ing is fine, too.
It seems you haven't learned language yet
That's right, you're an Igunido
And that large volume of spell notes was prepared for your capture...
It was just bad luck there was an accident.
I bet you were picked up somewhere and were being brought here to Mikuni Vius.

Wait a sec, let me call a friend.
I guess it's too much for you to under-stand.
?
?
?

ピ spitter チョン.
ぽた drip
ぽた drip
ピ spatter チョ
ピ spitter チョン

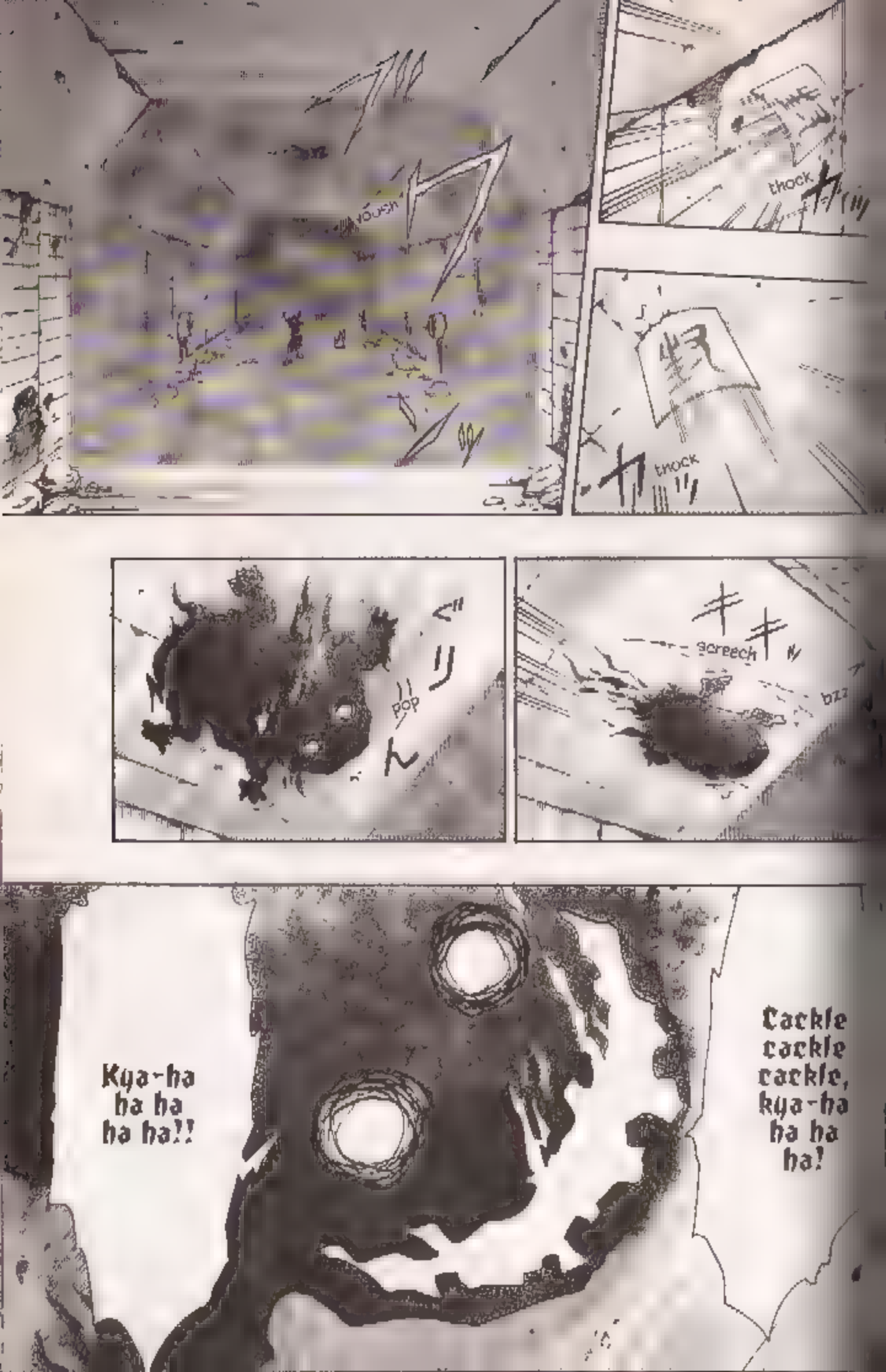
Mmm...




Here he is.

nod
He's one of your kind, but doesn't understand language yet.
Can you tell him not to worry?
mew mew
woof woof
aroo
fwnoop
cock-a-doodle
Just like how I picked up your thoughts earlier.
What I can use is intentions.
I am. The words aren't important.
The intentions are.
He's take it seriou
prick
rustle
He know now

Yip!
Unwap
zip
zip
zip
Who goes there?!
Whoa!
whip
whip
snap
snap


vOOSH
thock
thock
ぐ
リ
ん
POP
screech
bzz
Kya-ha ha ha ha!!
Cackle cackle cackle, kya-ha ha ha ha!

...Did you assault the transport vehicle too?
Kya-ha ha ha ha! Spell shields don't work on me.
snicker snicker
We're within Mikuni's spell shield!
How did you, a Dracule, sneak in here?
I don't know who you all are, but what do you plan to do with him? He's useless to you.
In fact, we'd found him first, but you all came and snatched him away!
That's right. 'Cuz we didn't want you Vlus to get the precious Igunido.
...oh, really.
So we'd rather erase him than let you have him!
'Cuz once they're trained, Igunido can become strong allies to humans.
We don't want him, we just don't want you to have him!

Swish
thump
thump
Cackle cackle cackle... you're one to talk.
So you're the one who's going to be erased.
Dracules are not permitted within Mikuni City borders.

leap
Don't compare me to you!
That's true.
You're more similar to those two.
!!
hurtle
hurtle

slilide
slilide
slilide
slilide
bound
Cackle cackle cackle... humanlike but not human...
What do you know?!!
Who do you mean "those two"?!
Dracule-like but not Dracule...
Issa Kazuma!
Those two have also showed interest in you.

Kya-ha ha ha ha!!
The master of the Obsidian Eye said he'd like to pay his respects some day!!
spurt
spurt
spurt
curl...
curl...
curl...
Feh!

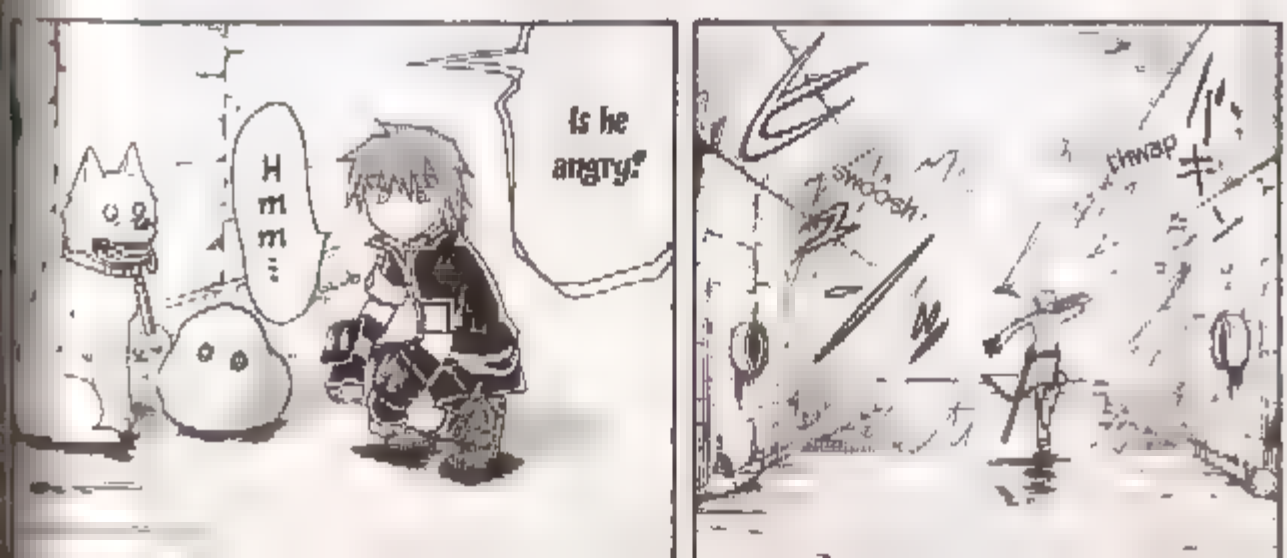
gush
gush
!
!
Kazuma!
hurt
hurt
zip
zip
What was that, a Dracule that escaped from the transport vehicle?
Yes and no.
Hm
Hm
skitter
skitter
shudder

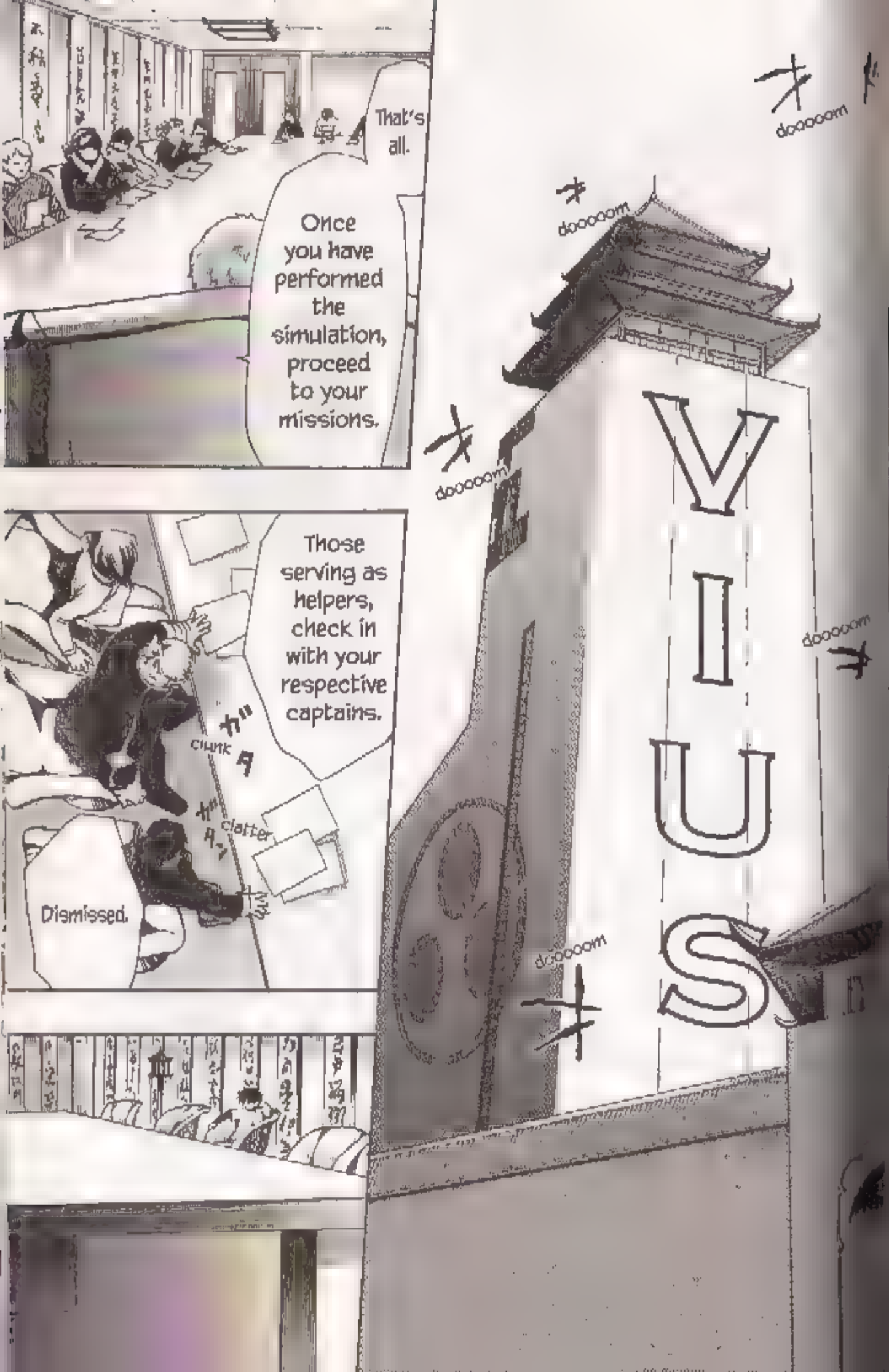
Just now, it was piggy-backing on that cat.
!
It's a rare breed that I'd heard of once that can become smokelike and possess other creatures.
It's a Dracule, but one that somehow managed to squeeze through Mikuni's spell shield net.
?
mew
OH!
Captain.
It looks like he wasn't hurt.
This guy's really soft.
He's all right?!
Yup.

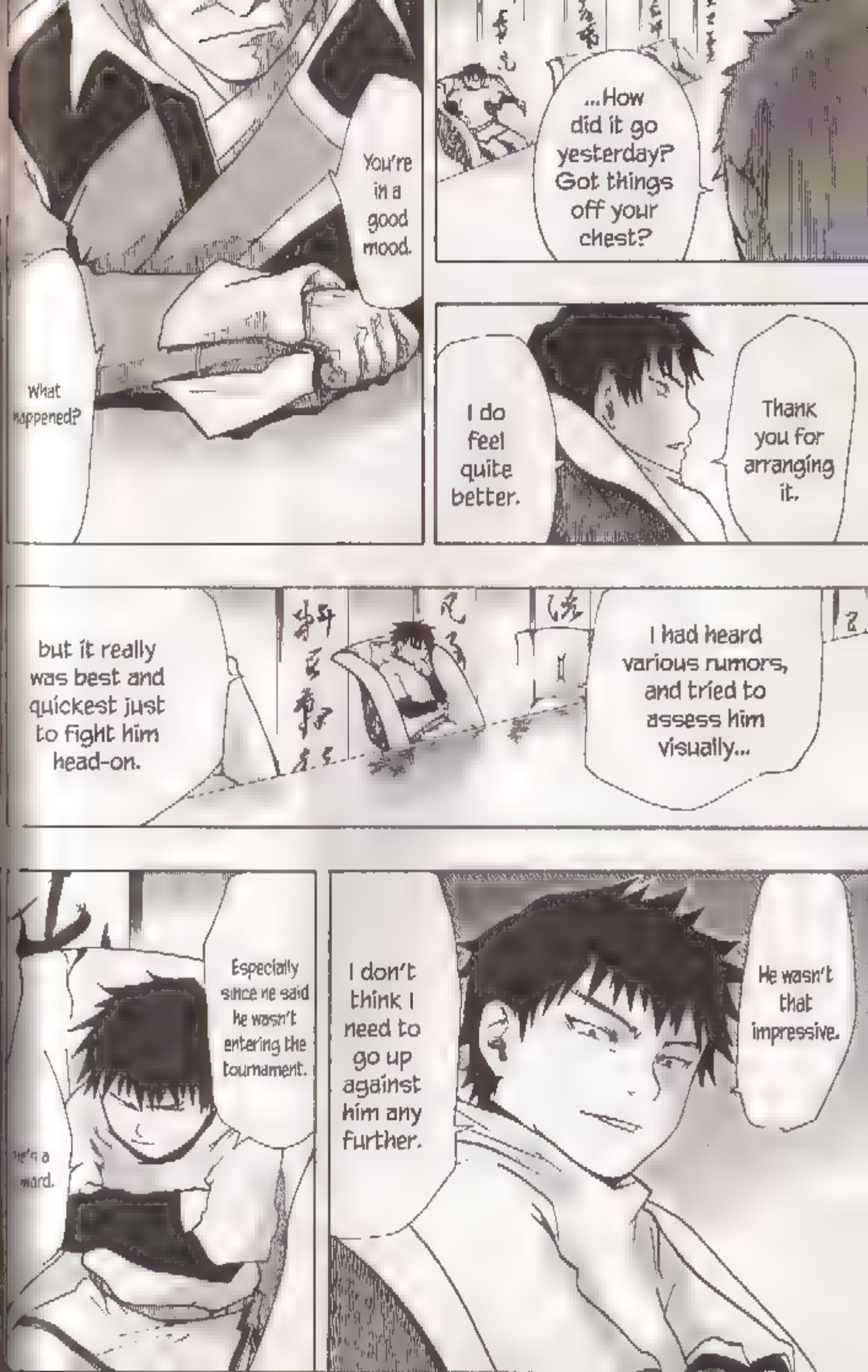
Don't worry, he's not a Dracule.
The real cargo that vehicle was transporting.
And that dog...
...What's this creature...?
You mean, *another* secret.
But either way, he's harmless.
Not a Dracule
Well... I guess he *could* be considered one.
How did you know I was here?
Oh, hey!
Huh?
I'm calling the others.

Hey.
I've learned your patterns.

Thanks. You were a great help.


Hmm...
Is he angry?
Swoosh.
Thwap


That's all.
Once you have performed the simulation, proceed to your missions.
Those serving as helpers, check in with your respective captains.
clunk
clatter
Dismissed.
doooom
VIUS


...How did it go yesterday? Got things off your chest?
You're in a good mood.
What happened?
I do feel quite better.
Thank you for arranging it.
but it really was best and quickest just to fight him head-on.
I had heard various rumors, and tried to assess him visually...
He wasn't that impressive.
I don't think I need to go up against him any further.
Especially since he said he wasn't entering the tournament.
He's a ward.

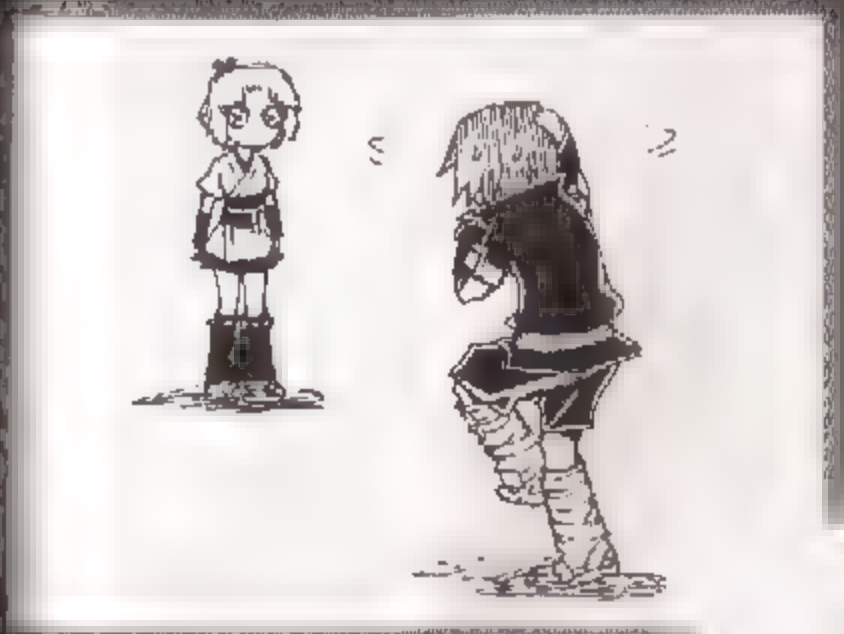
Snicker...
Heh.
Kazuma, not that impressive?
You've been played!!
Wa-ha ha ha ha!
He'll never admit it straight out,
but I hear he suffered some pretty heavy injuries in that cave the other day.
Otherwise, there's no way you could have stopped that child-shaped wild beast with just one blow.

Kwa-
ha
ha!
were tricked by him too!!
You, who have been called a child prodigy...
Cackle cackle... "Wasn't that impressive," eh?
Wa-
ha
ha
ha
ha!!
clunk
mutter
mutter
clip
clip
Why do I have to do the paper-work...

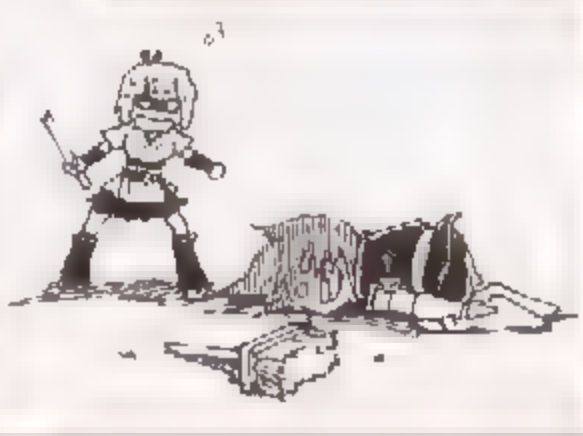
.....
.....
You've recovered from yesterday already?
Uh... First, have to pick up the documents.
...Nope!
I'd have thought it would hurt a while. Shouldn't you be resting?

Since you then went on a mission at full active status, you're not allowed any excuses.
A defeat is a defeat.
!
Even though you were already injured from before...?
.....
That was a pretty pitiful fight and an embarrassing end.
I thought I could expect more from you.
whirr
Perhaps.
You dare run away again!!

I'm not going to lose!
I'm going to enter that tournament and make it to the finals,
so bring on your Dragon Eye and whatever else you've got!
I don't care if you're a squad captain or not!
Any fellow that runs from a challenge is no warrior!
If you don't end up as the captain delegate...
I'll scorn you with all my soul!!
.....
...Don't bite... It's a challenge.
...If I take his bait... I'll lose.



Talk
Greet
Breast



Need more medical herbs
Need more medicinal herbs

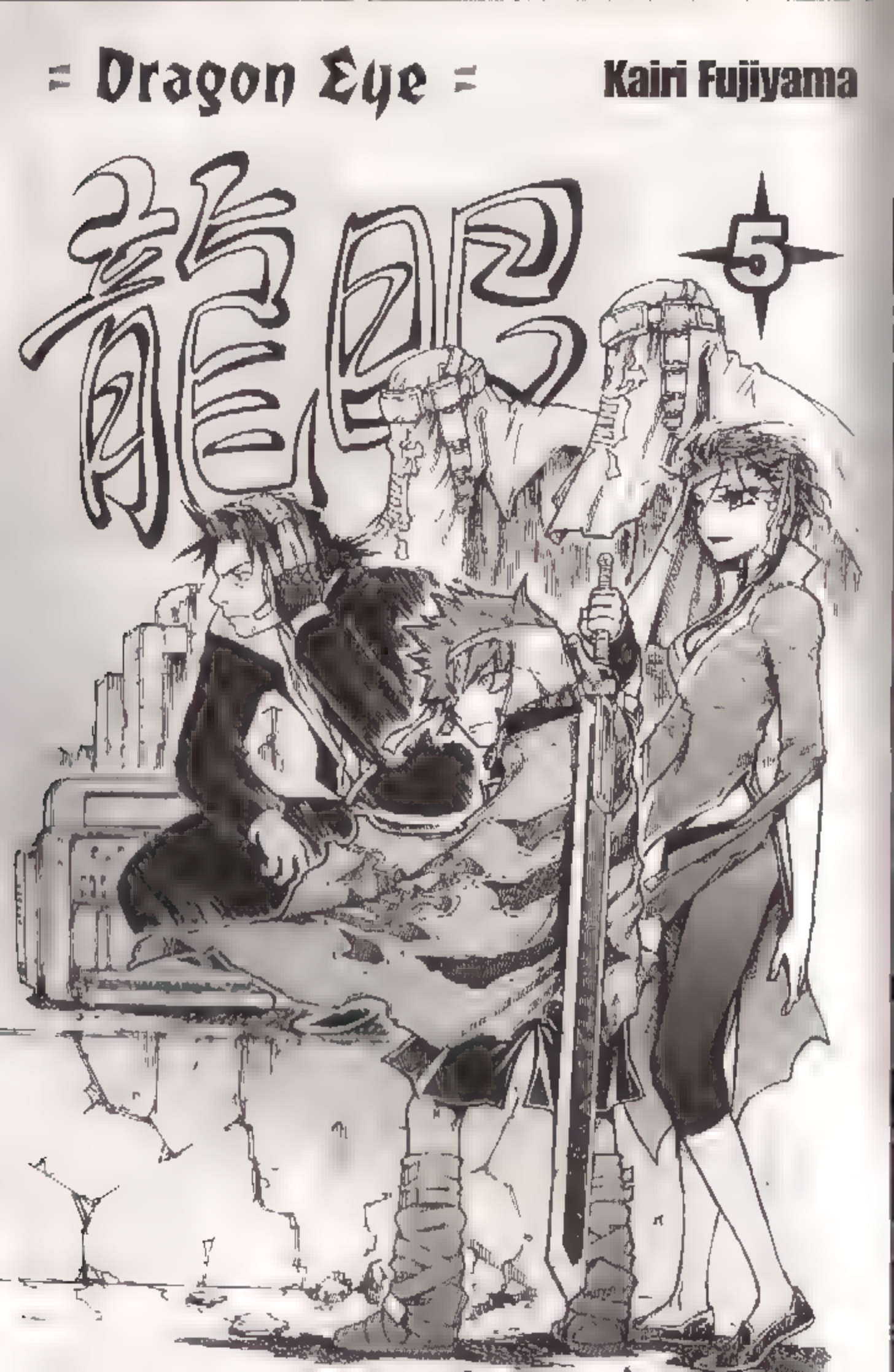
DRAGON
EYE
5
KAIRI
FUJIYAMA

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

竜眼

5

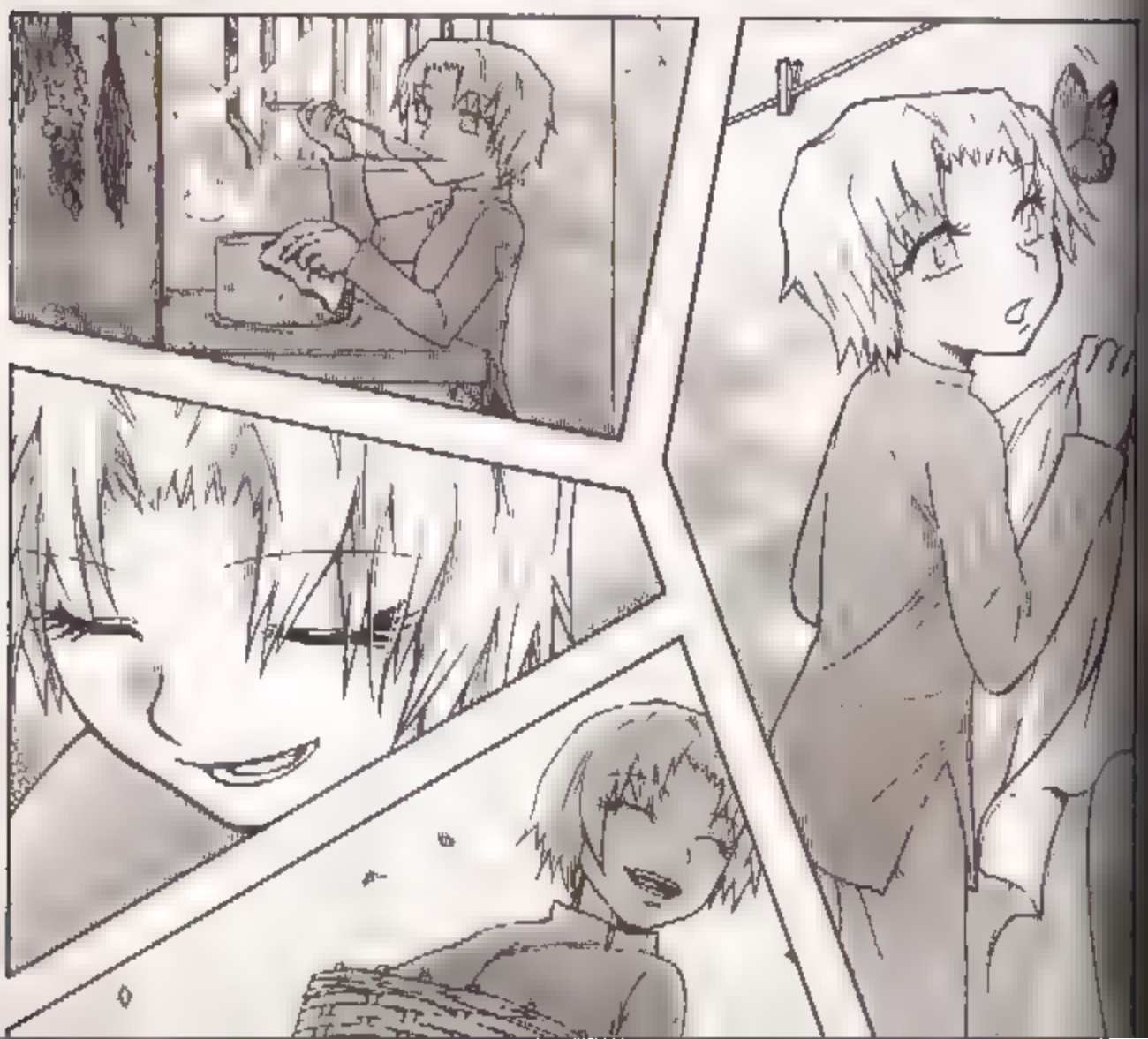


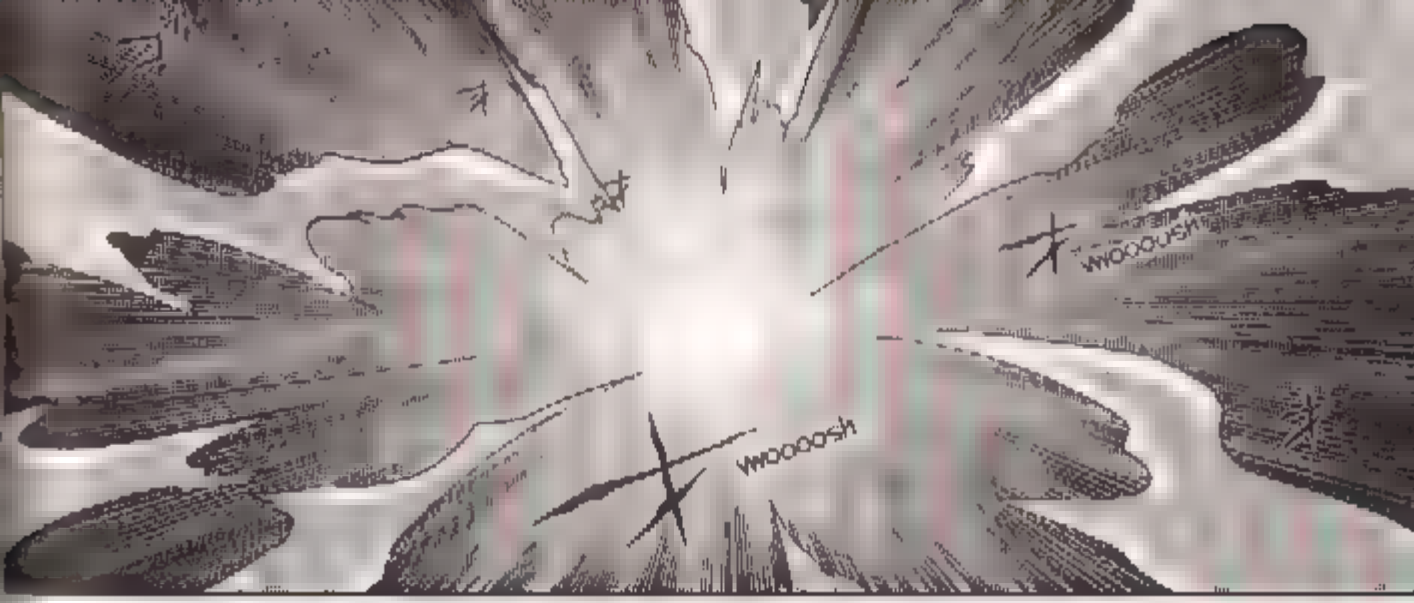
Mission ⓪ Thirteen
The Trap
5

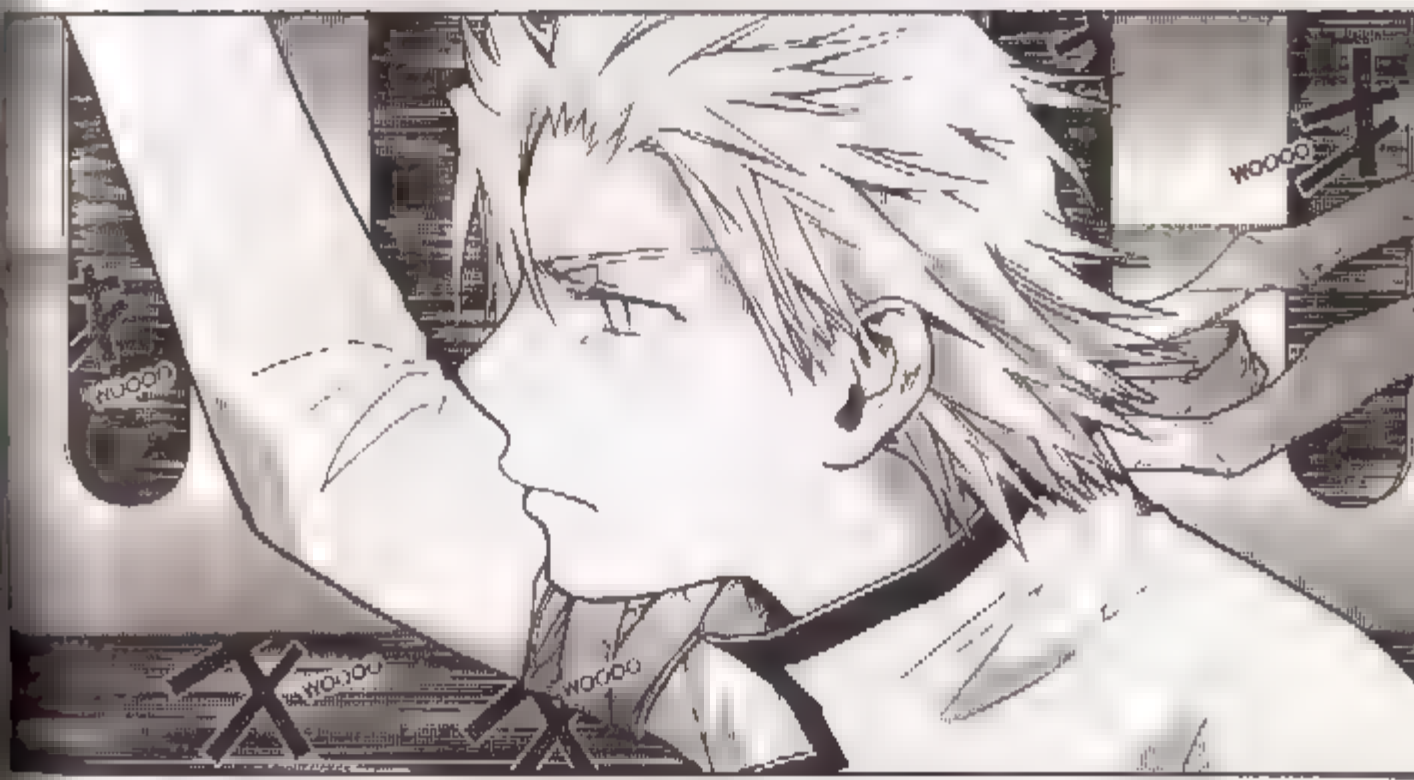
Mission ⓪ Fourteen
The Cargo's Whereabouts
67

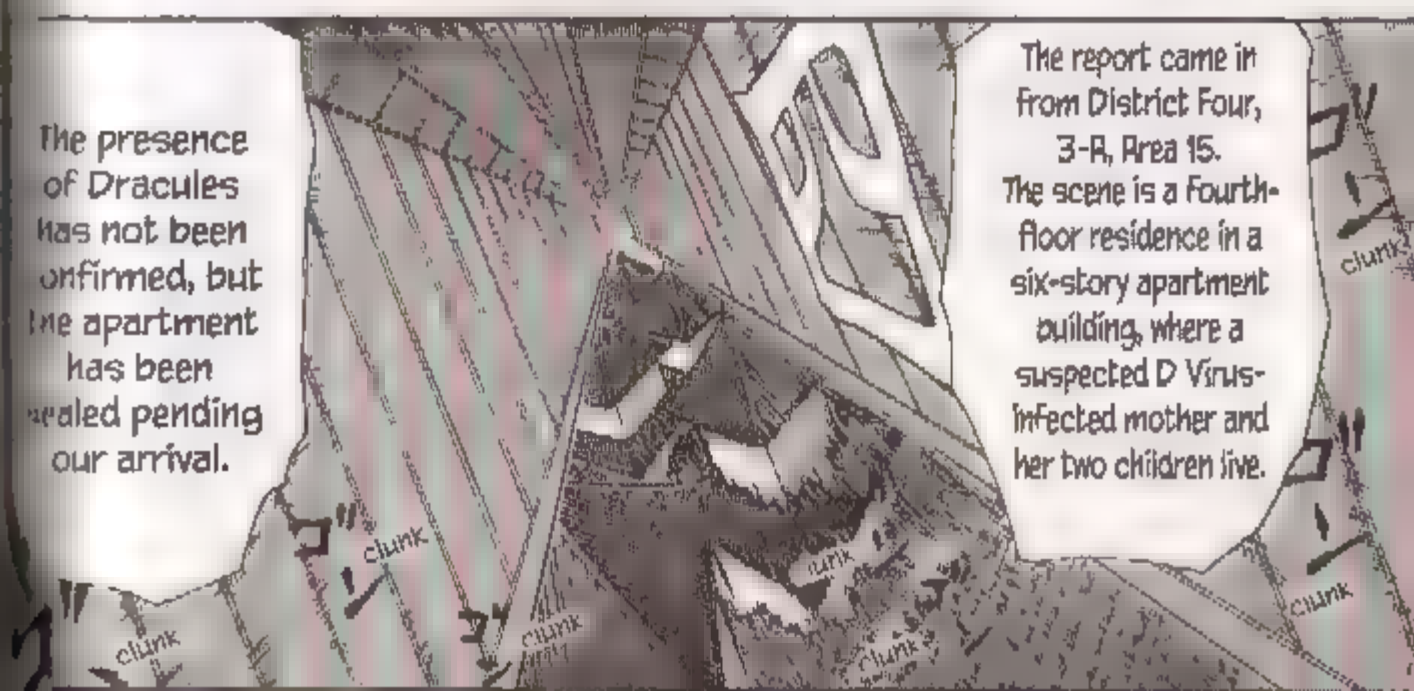
Mission ⓪ Fifteen
The Source of Discord
123

Extras
180




WOOOOOSH
WOOOOOSH


WOOOO
WOOOO
WOOOO


The presence of Dracules has not been onfirmed, but he apartment has been ealed pending our arrival.
The report came in from District Four, 3-R, Area 15. The scene is a Fourth-floor residence in a six-story apartment building, where a suspected D Virus-infected mother and her two children live.
clunk
clunk
clunk
clunk
clunk
clunk

WOO
WOO
WOO
WOO
WOO
WOOO
WOO
In any case, the safety of the two children is our top priority.
We'll receive details once on scene.
Let's go!

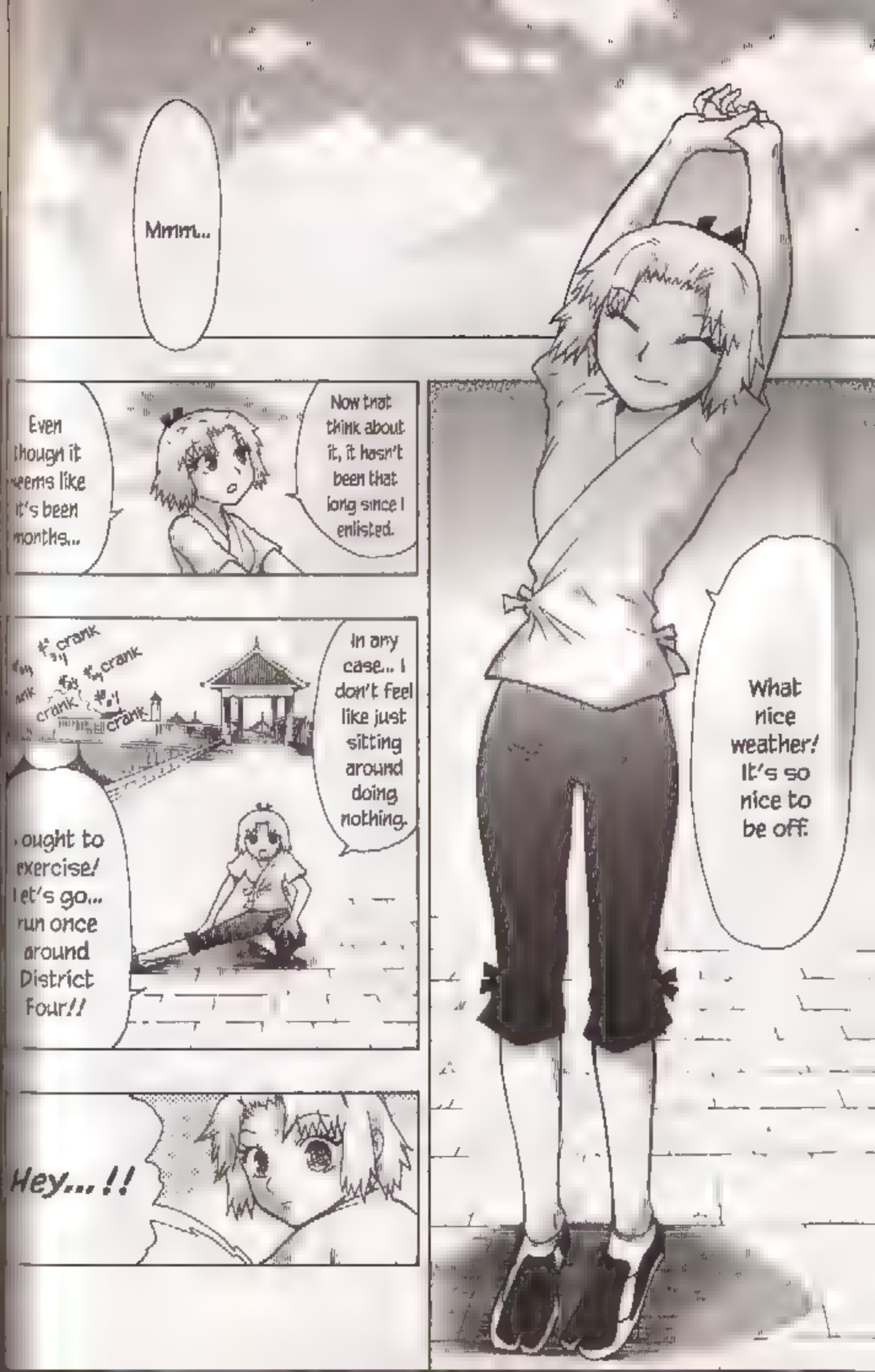
Mission ⊙ Fifteen

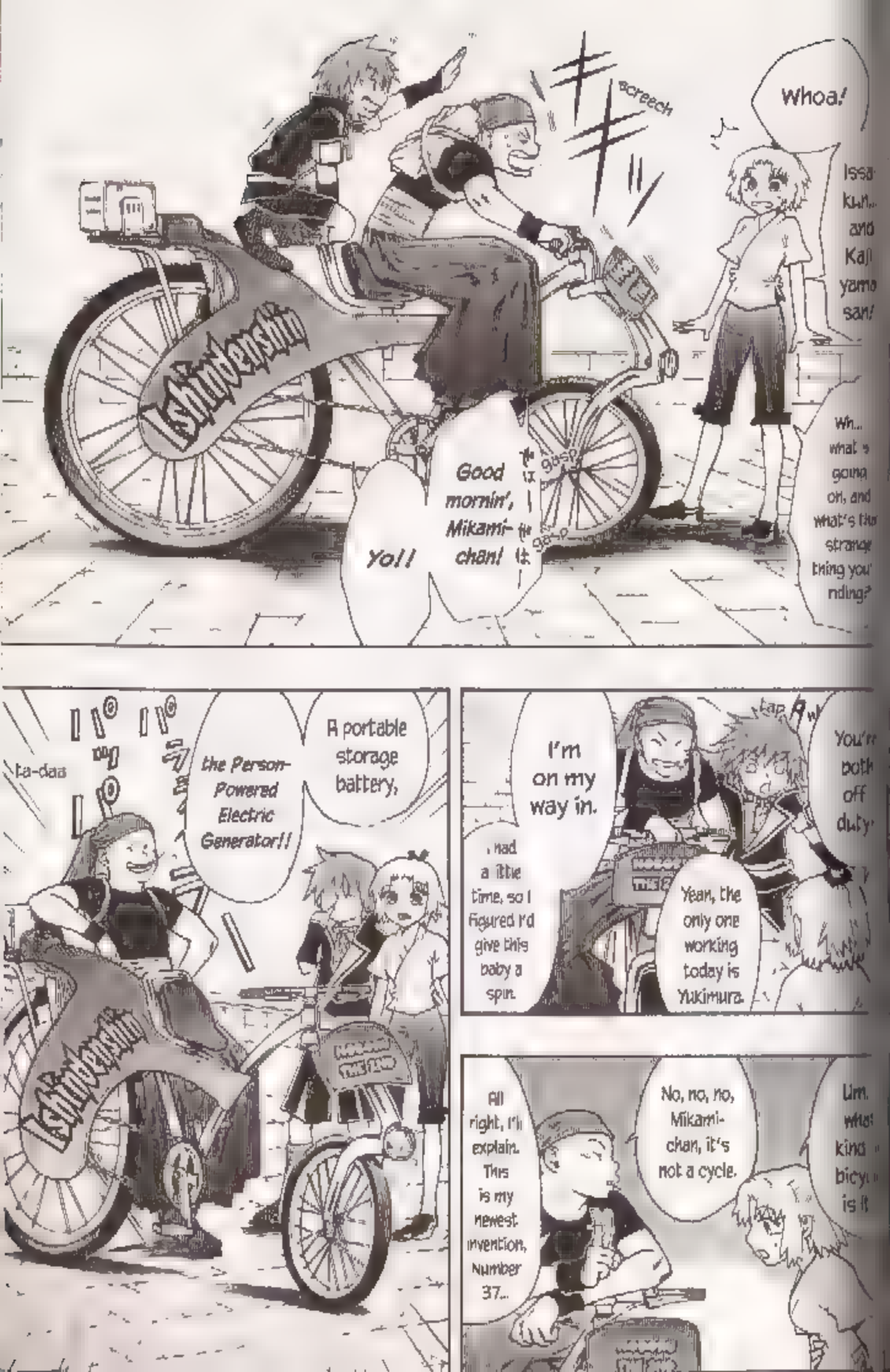
The Source of Discord

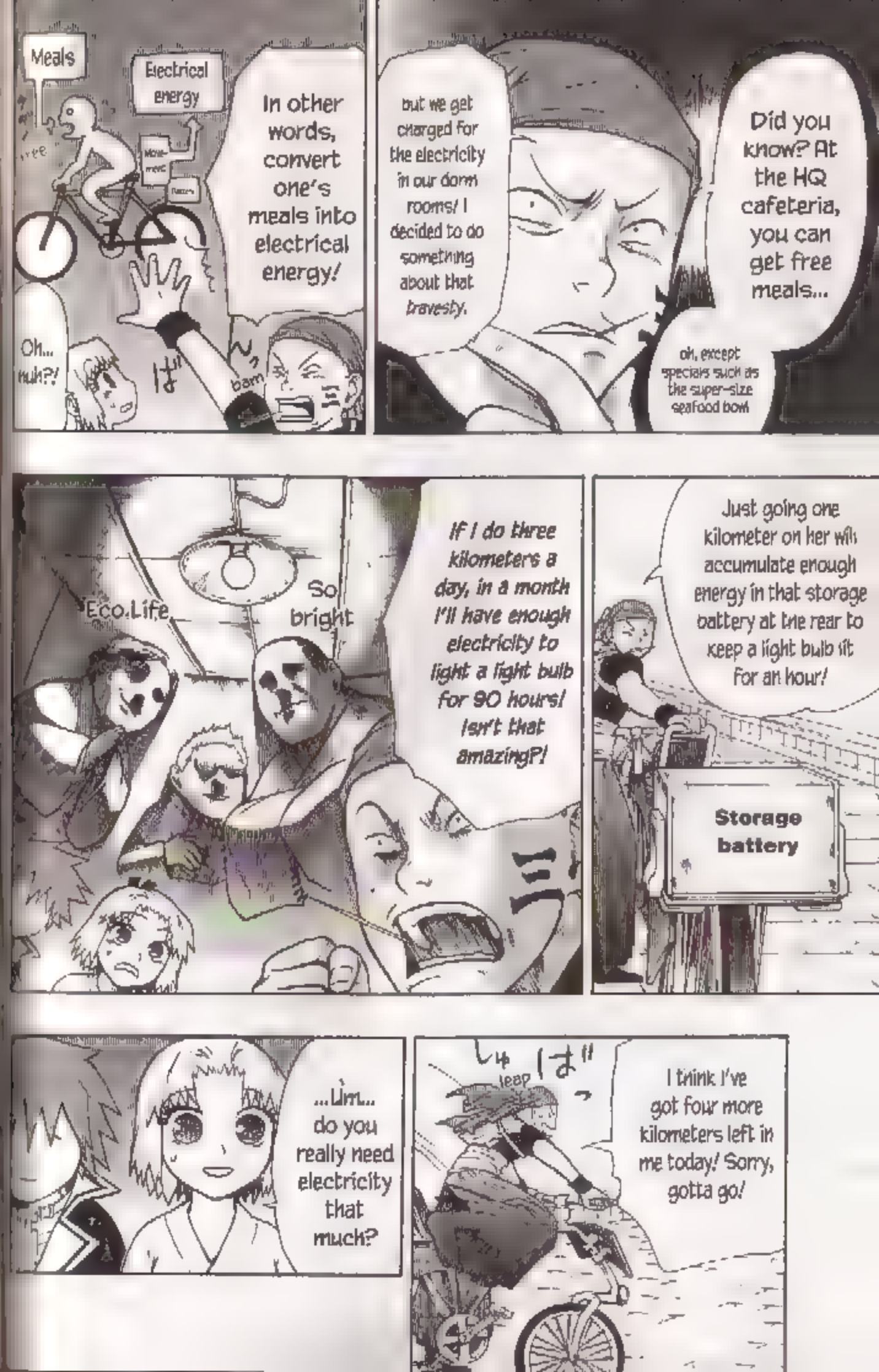
thump
thump
thump
Oh, shoot.
Waiting for that super-size seafood rice bowl made me late!
I should have had the super-quick, super-yummy beef bowl for breakfast instead!
trot
trot
trot
Well, I'll use these popsicles to make them forgive me.
clatter
Morning!
You're late, you rascal!
bleep
bleep
ker blast
ker-blast

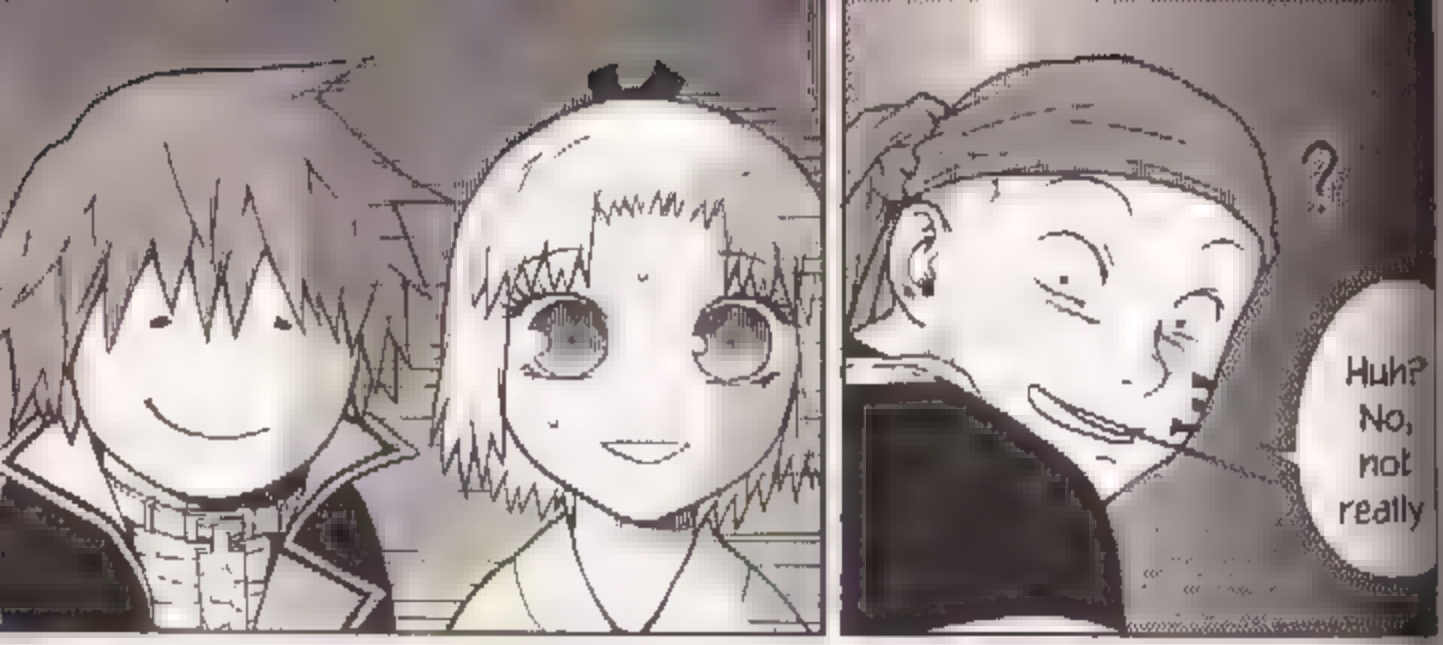
It's got your name on it.
Hey! Who brought that in?! How dare they!
Not only are you thirty minutes late, how dare you keep video games in the ready room!
Do you always saunter in like a prince?
Huh? Where are my squad members?
You've got the day off today. Go rest up.
I'm busy, so let me get down to business.
Why are you arbitrarily taking me off active duty?!
but it seems Yukimura's volunteered for a Squad Five mission.
I told Mikami and Yukimura that they've got the day off too...
Huh? My day off's not for another three days.

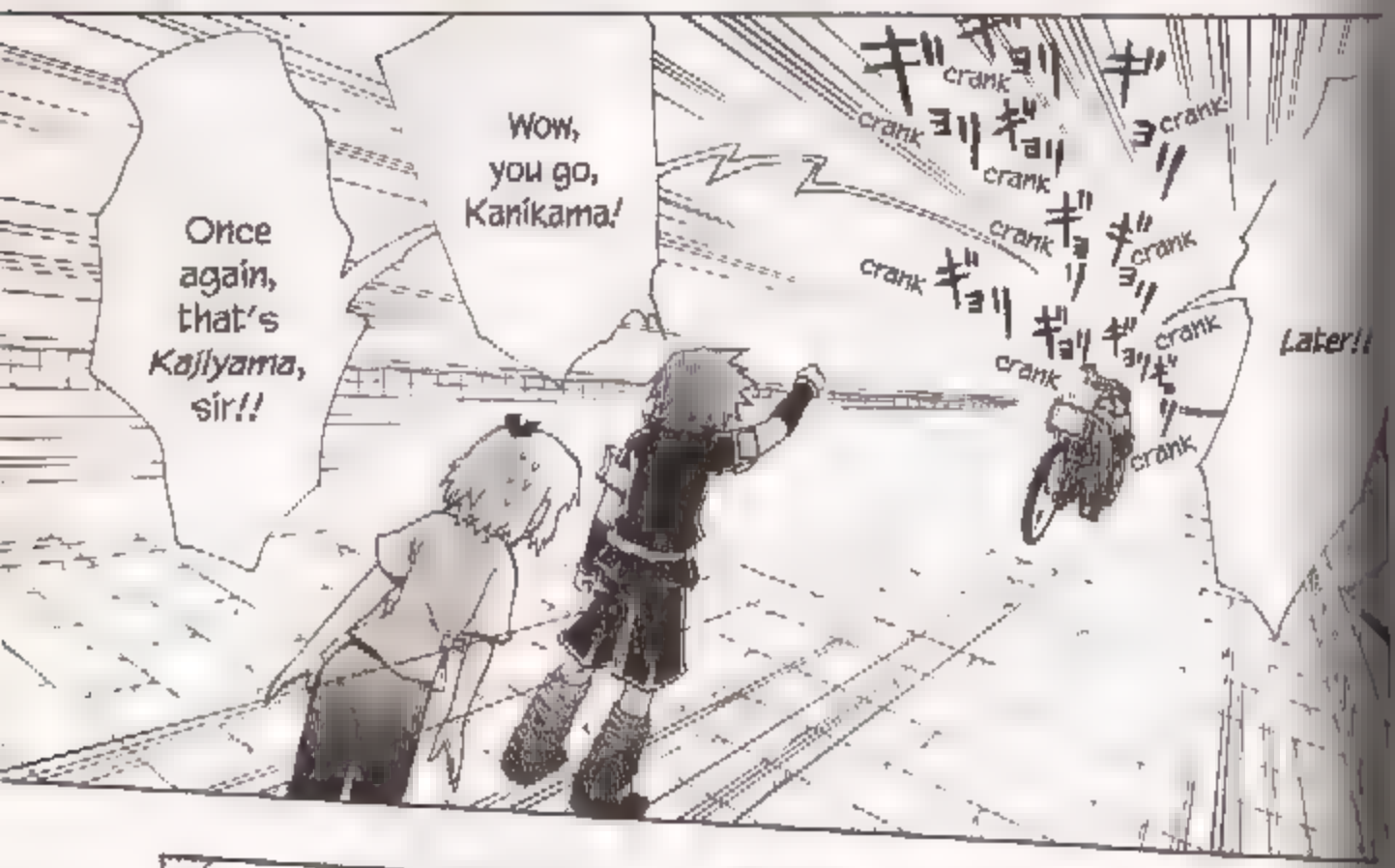
YOW!!!
grab
.....
?
snatch
...No.
krik
krik
"Yowl"? Something wrong with your side?
He's got a sharp nose, darn it.
stomp
stomp
Take it easy, OK?


Mmm...
What nice weather! It's so nice to be off.
Now that think about it, it hasn't been that long since I enlisted.
Even though it seems like it's been months...
In any case... I don't feel like just sitting around doing nothing.
crank
crank
crank
crank
crank
I ought to exercise! Let's go... run once around District Four!!
Hey...!!


screech
Whoa!
Issa kun... and Kaji yama san!
Wh... what's going on, and what's that strange thing you're riding?
Ishinden
Yo!!
Good mornin', Mikami-chan!
gasp
ta-daa
the Person-Powered Electric Generator!!
A portable storage battery,
Ishinden
tap
I'm on my way in.
You're both off duty.
I had a little time, so I figured I'd give this baby a spin.
Yeah, the only one working today is Yukimura.
All right, I'll explain. This is my newest invention, Number 37...
No, no, no, Mikami-chan, it's not a cycle.
Um. What kind of bicycle is it


Meals
Electrical energy
In other words, convert one's meals into electrical energy!
Oh... huh?!
bam
but we get charged for the electricity in our dorm rooms! I decided to do something about that travesty.
Did you know? At the HQ cafeteria, you can get free meals...
oh, except specials such as the super-size seafood bowl
Eco.Life
So bright
If I do three kilometers a day, in a month I'll have enough electricity to light a light bulb for 90 hours! Isn't that amazing?!
Just going one kilometer on her will accumulate enough energy in that storage battery at the rear to keep a light bulb lit for an hour!
Storage battery
...Um... do you really need electricity that much?
leap
I think I've got four more kilometers left in me today! Sorry, gotta go!


?
Huh? No, not really

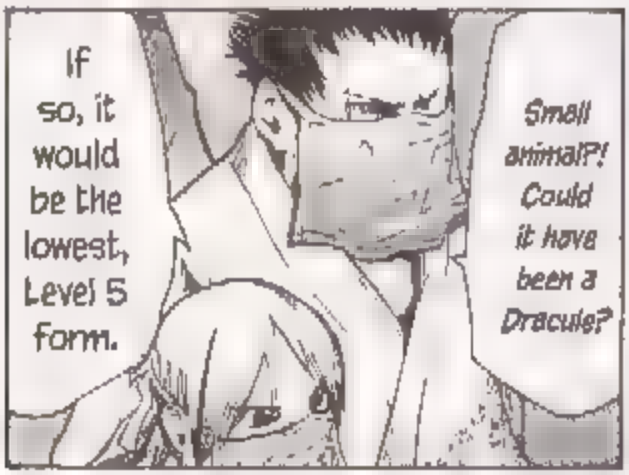

Once again, that's Kajiyama, sir!!
Wow, you go, Kanikama!
crank
Later!!

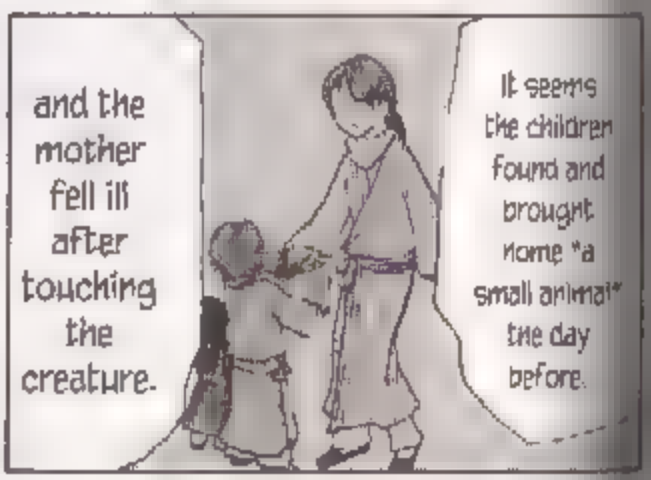
Huh?
So what do you want to hang out and do?

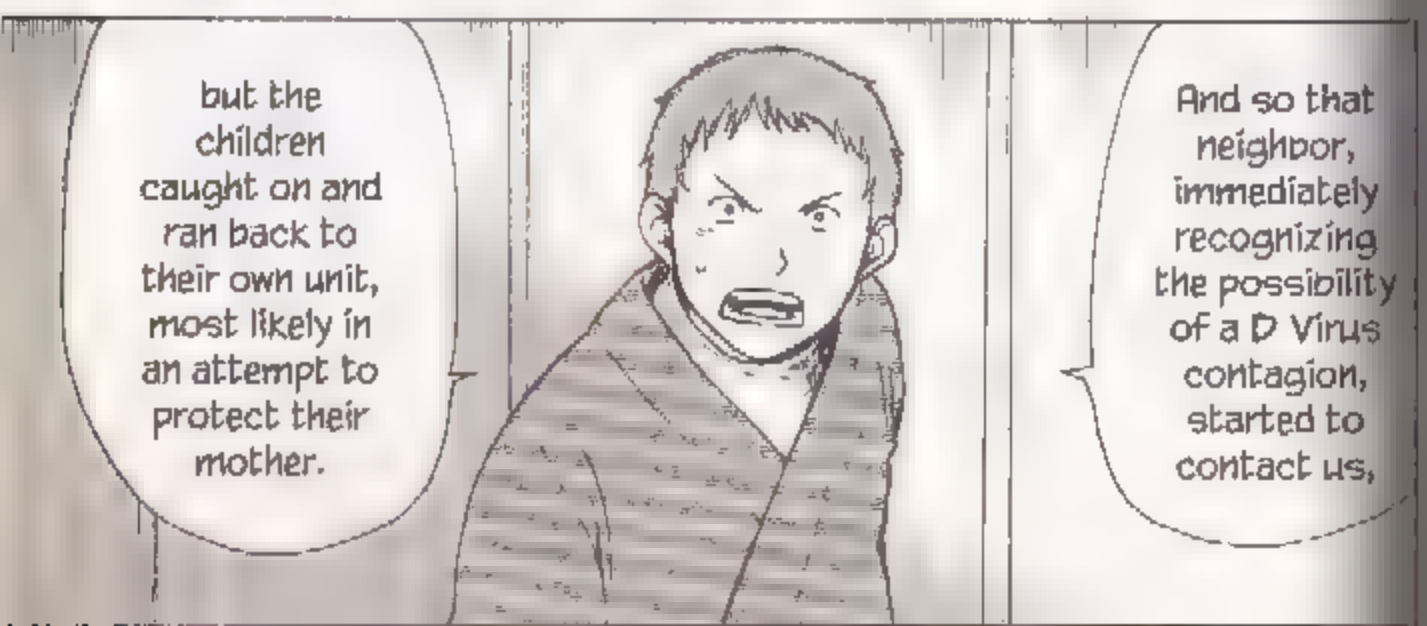
..Sure.
No?
His inventions just always lack a little something!

ゴ
ゴ
whoosh
clunk
ゴ
オ
ン
whoosh
clunk
ゴ
オ
ン
clam
Yes, sir!
The VIUS have arrived!
Yes. The local police station received a dispatch this morning...
stream
Squad Five here. Explain the situation!

In the unit in question reside the mother, a six-year-old boy, and his four-year-old sister.
The caller is the suspect's neighbor. Apparently, the children came by this morning asking for help, complaining that their mother "was not well."


If so, it would be the lowest, Level 5 form.
Small animal?! Could it have been a Dracule?


and the mother fell ill after touching the creature.
It seems the children found and brought home "a small animal" the day before.


but the children caught on and ran back to their own unit, most likely in an attempt to protect their mother.
And so that neighbor, immediately recognizing the possibility of a D Virus contagion, started to contact us,

Before the neighbor could stop them, the children locked themselves in, and no one's been able to see what's going on inside since then.
Makes sense... for if she does turn out to be infected, the mother would have to be executed.
Super-antibodies are often inherited. This means the mother is the only one at risk of infection.
but the father, who's posted far away, as well as the children, are super-antibody carriers.
The mother is a weak-antibody carrier,
That's the unit.
it's a possibility.
Regardless of how the small Dracule got into Mikuni, if the mother turns into a Dracule too, the children will eventually be killed.

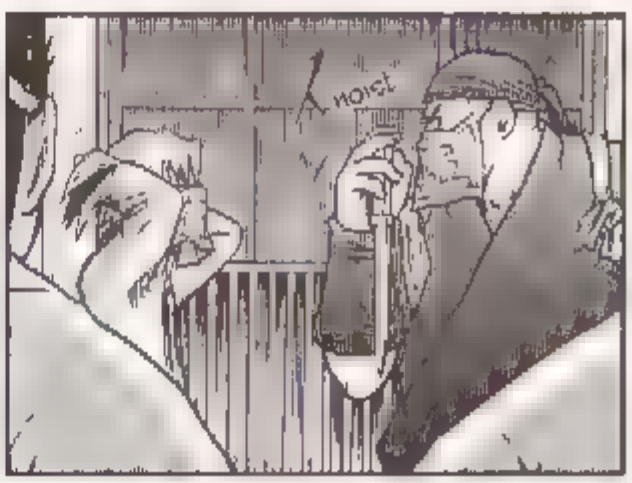
Shall I check from the outside?
Can't tell what's going on inside.
I've got Koyui on it already.
bustle
bustle
The VIUS are here! Clear out!
Koyui, can you hear me? It's on the far end of the Fourth floor.
Yes, I'm right outside.
The shutters are closed, so I can't see inside.
whoooo
No way of telling if the children are safe or not...

Yes, sir.
Yukimura, you in?
Good. As soon as I've broken the lock, go on in.
Prepare to raid!
It can't be helped. We're going to have to go in.

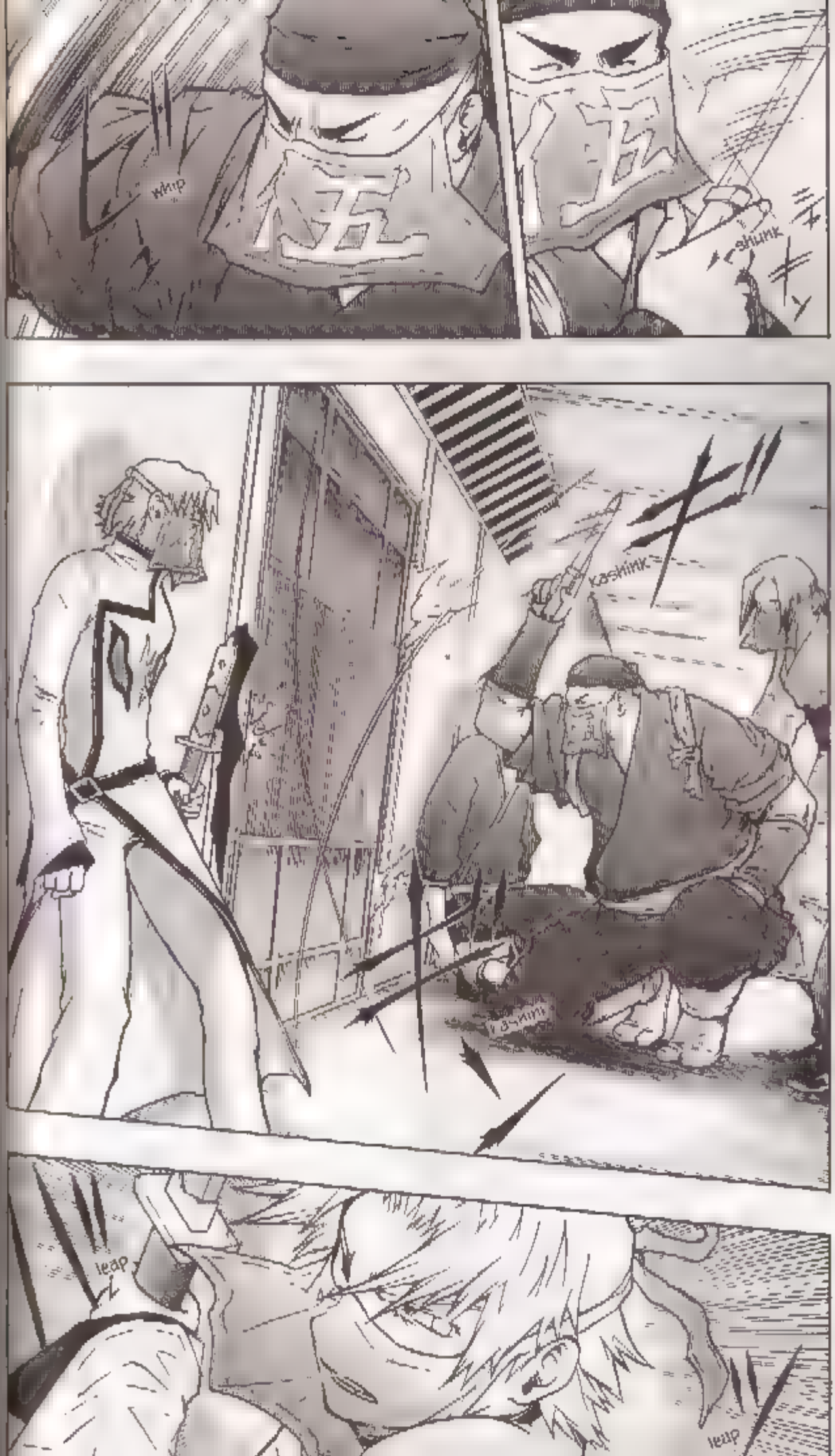
...!
Yes, sir!

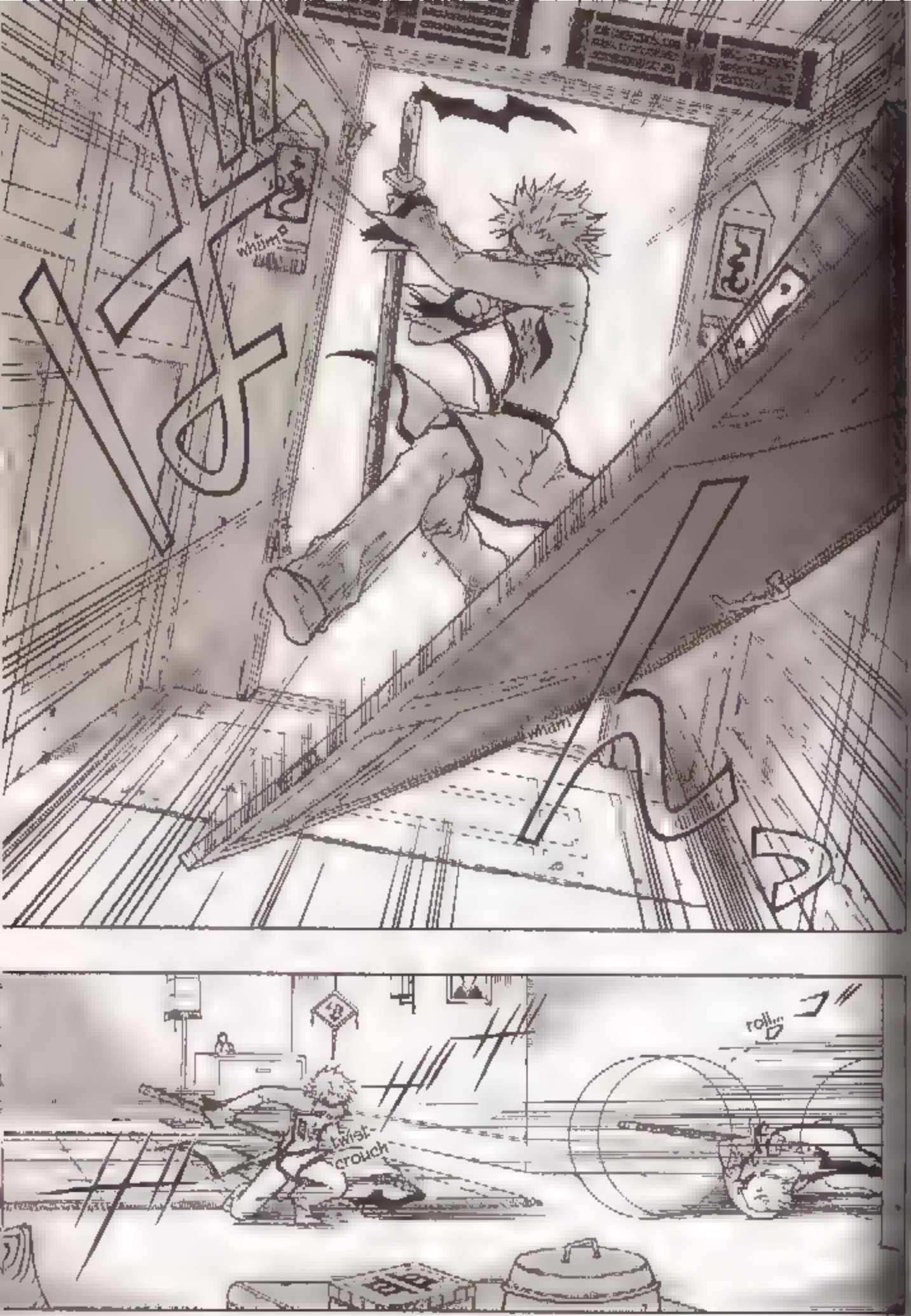
Keep your cool.
Listen, it may be that you will have to execute the mother in front of the children.

Tie your mask veil tightly, Yukimura.

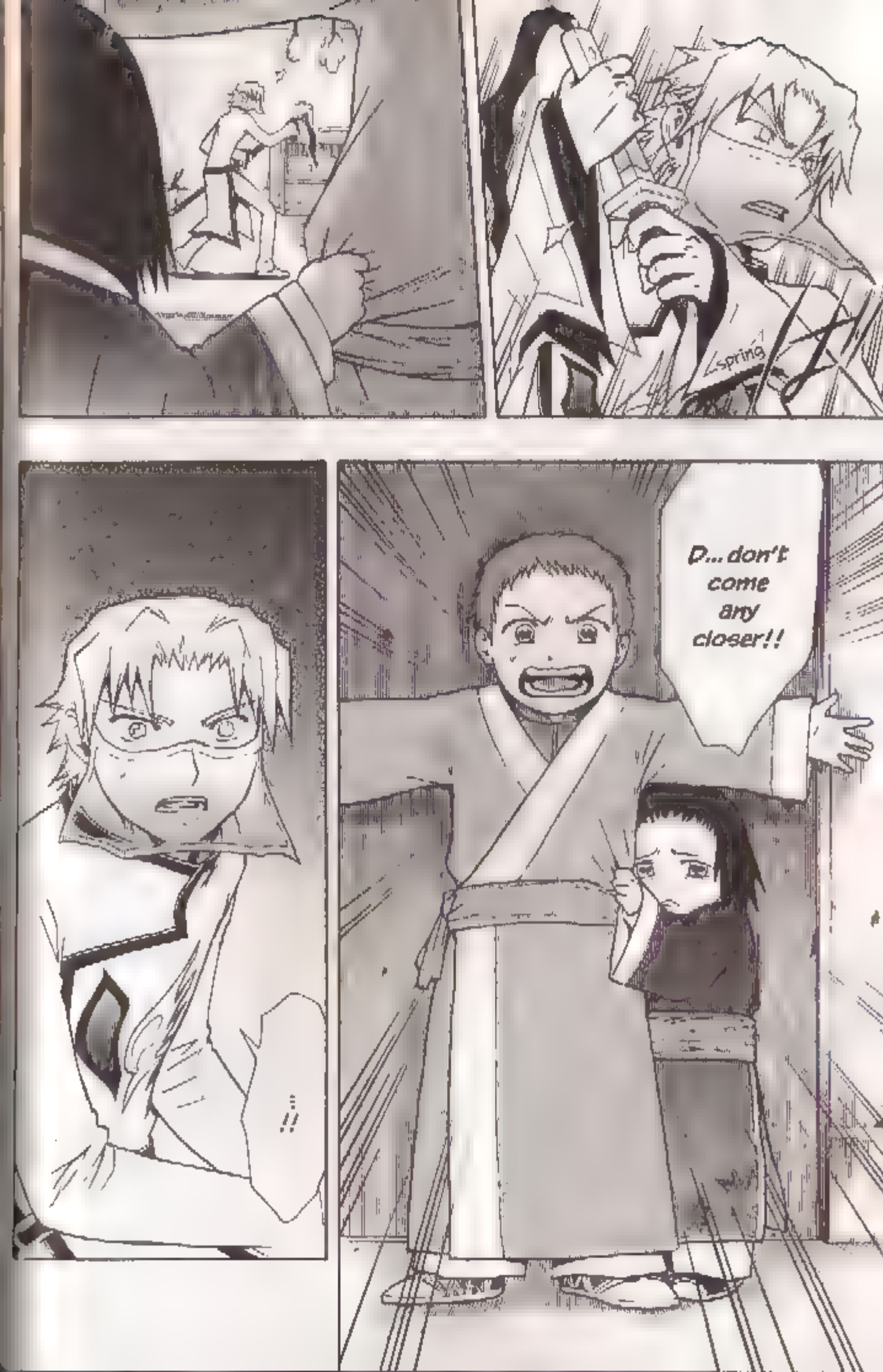

HOIST

There are few who can rationally accept the killing of a family member.
Do you know why we of Troop Chihiro hide our faces?
It is to avoid resentment.
Even if it is absolutely necessary.
...Yes, sir.
Do not be swayed by your emotions.
Take great care and act with composure.


whip
shunk
kashink
leap
leap


whiam
whiam

twist-
crouch
roll...

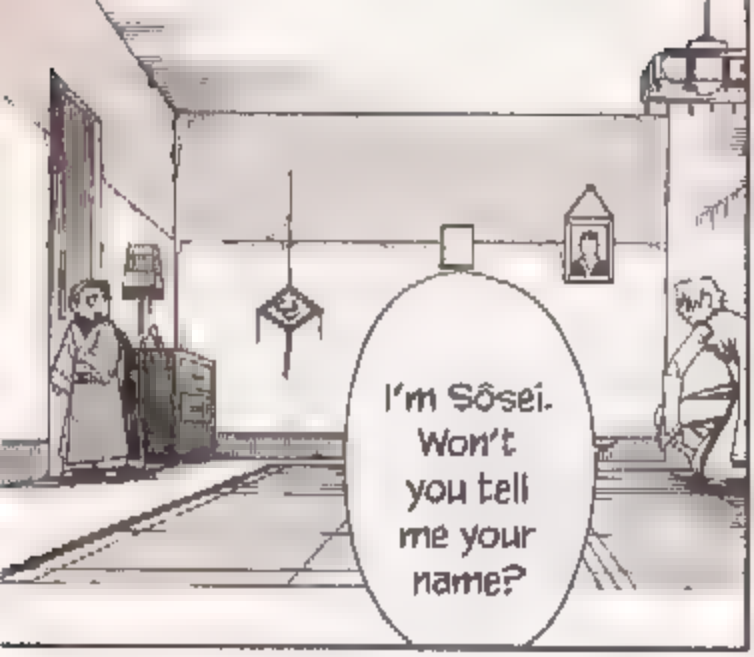

Spring
D...don't come any closer!!
!!

Captain, they're OK! The two children are unharmed!
And the others?!
There's no one else here.
rise
but wait, what about behind that door?
No Dracules, either...
!
Halt! Go home!!
rattle
Hold on, OK?! I won't do anything, so...
What's behind that door, their mother? If she's transformed into a Dracule...

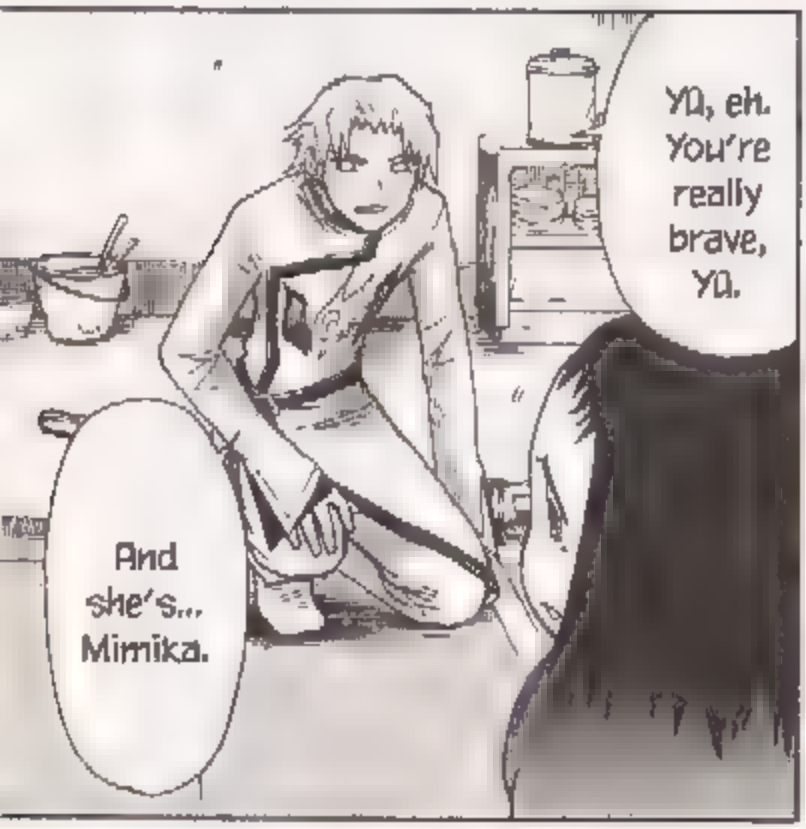
I see. In that case...
There's a risk that there is a Dracule on the other side of that door.
The children tried to go through that far door...
What's the matter?!
Captain, shall I go in?
...
Captain, please let me handle this.
All right, Yukimura, go for it.
...
Just hold. Remain on standby.
Captain?
...

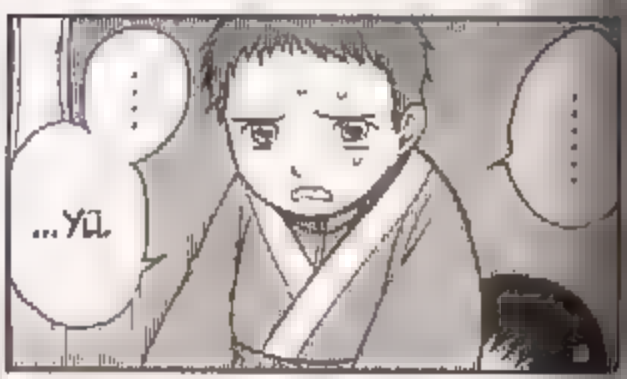
Is your mom on the other side of that door?
nod
...Is the animal you found with her too?
Go home! I'm not telling you!
Not telling!
What's... your name?
Nope! There's no one in there!

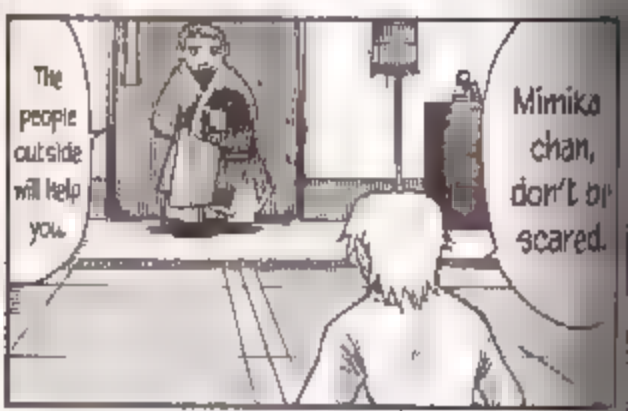
Go home!!
Who are you?!!
swish
You've been protecting your mother and sister in your father's place, haven't you.
I used to have a little sister too. Her name was Futaba.
She... was very important to me.

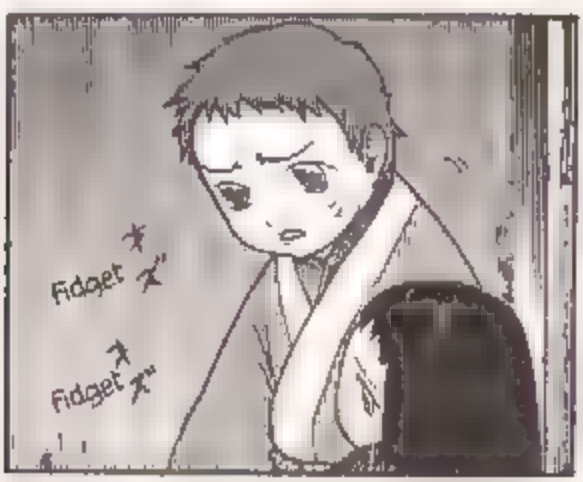

I'm Sôsei. Won't you tell me your name?

You've done really well by yourself.
Have you been standing there since this morning?

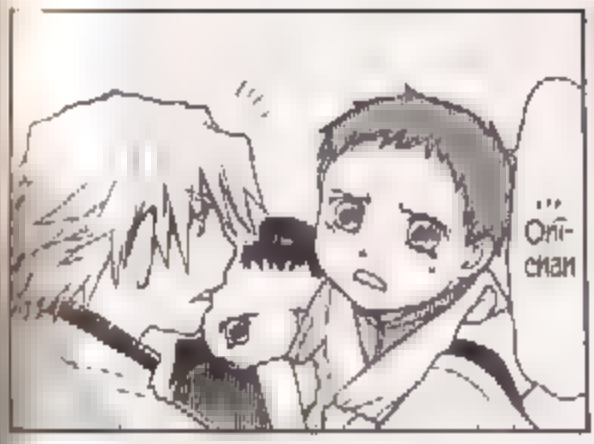

Yu, eh. You're really brave, yu.
And she's... Mimika.


...
...yu.
.....

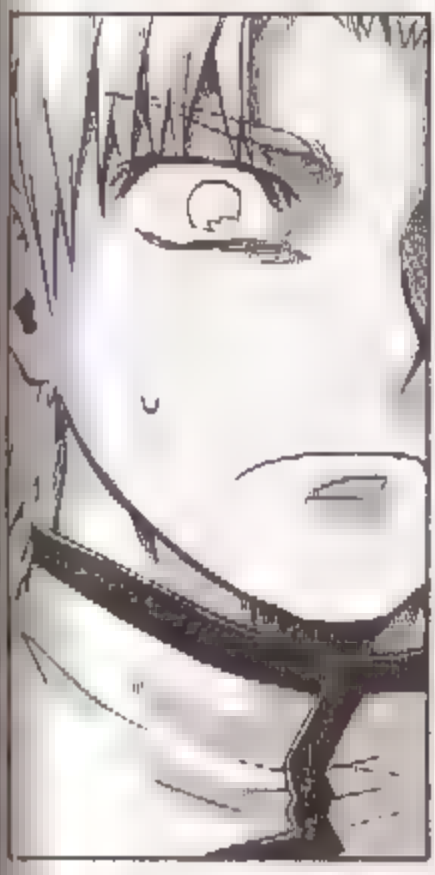

The people outside will help you.
Mimika chan, don't be scared.


Fidget
Fidget

You don't have to hurry.
Now, both of you, come to me slowly.

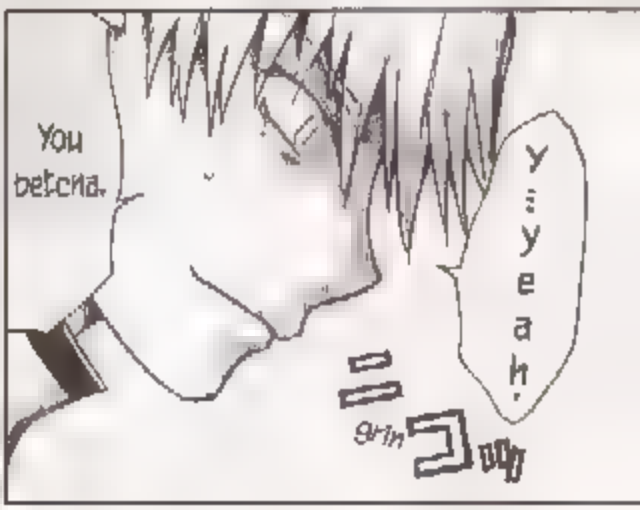

...Oni-chan

Aren't you thirsty? You can get something to drink outside.



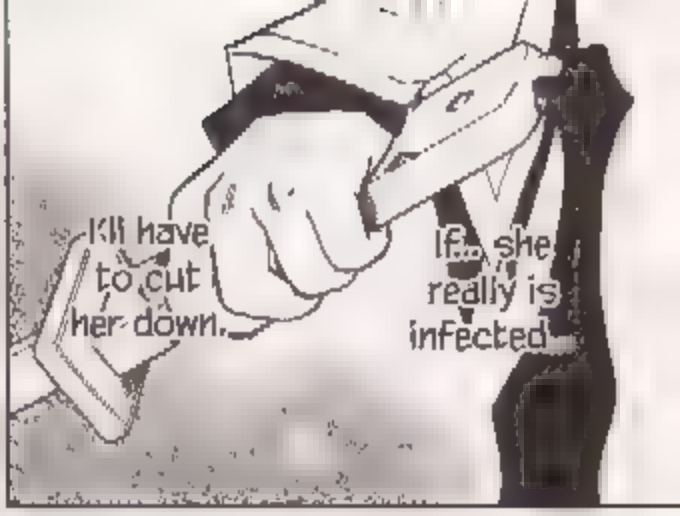
Please help Mommy too...
Mommy...

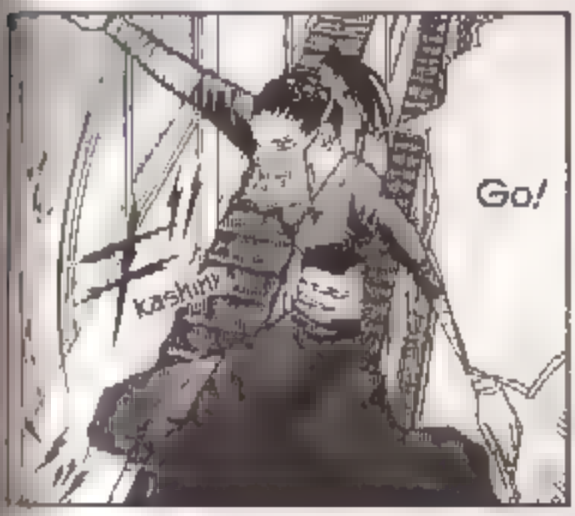
Now, come here!
dash
dash
dash


You betcha.
Y-yeah.
grin

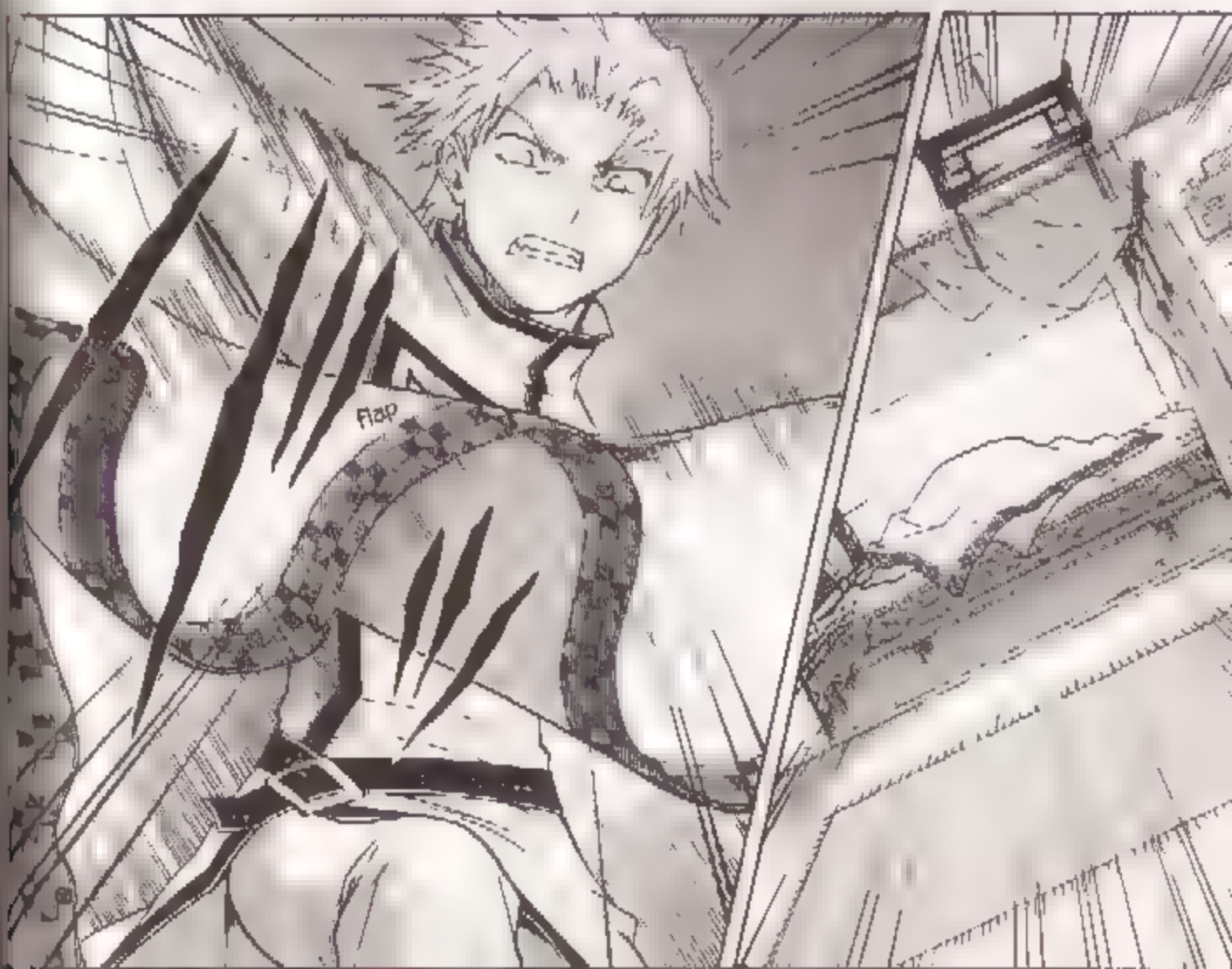
Ready when you are, sir.
It's the next room over.
Koyuu, go in on my command.
creak
drop
reach...

.....
Please help Mommy too!


I'll have to cut her down.
If... she really is infected


Go!
Kashimy

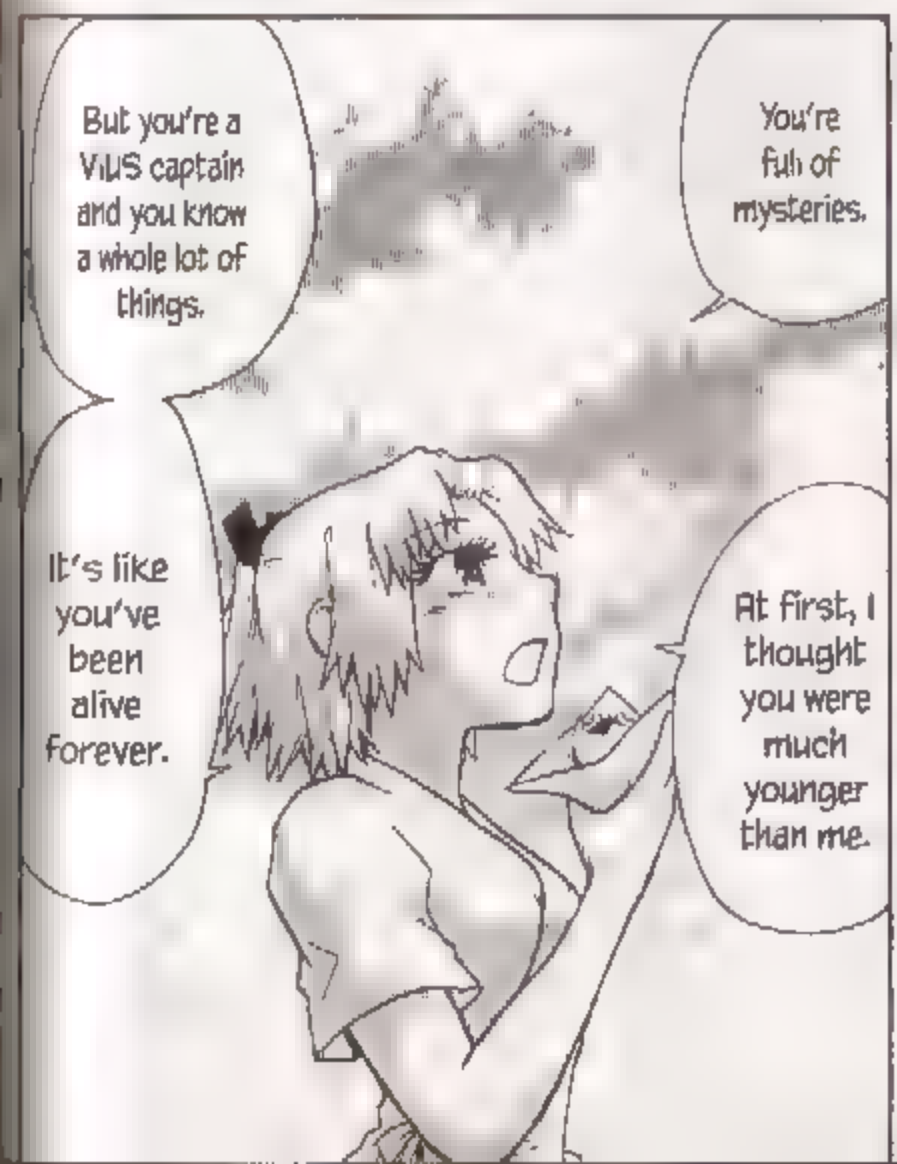
Swoosh
Please don't be!!


Flap

bustle
XTRA LARGE
bustle
Part of watching your health is eating good food, too.
What's so bad about that? It's your day off.
chomp
chomp
but I got led astray by you, and ended up just whiling away the time.
I was planning to be good and exercise today,
chew
chew
You brat, you climbed up there again! Get down here!
See, they're yelling at you!
Hey, Bro, can I get one more xtra large daifuku?
Are we even allowed to climb up here?
Don't worry. They know me.
Then let's sit down and eat in proper chairs!
Why? It's a better view from here.
bustle
bustle
I feel bad, eating leisurely like this.
Sōsei-san's on a mission, isn't he...

sputter
sputter
sputter
sputter
You'll become morose!
Don't be a fool like Sōsei!
Please don't talk with your mouth full.
What's the point of a rest day if you don't rest?!
Are you kidding?!

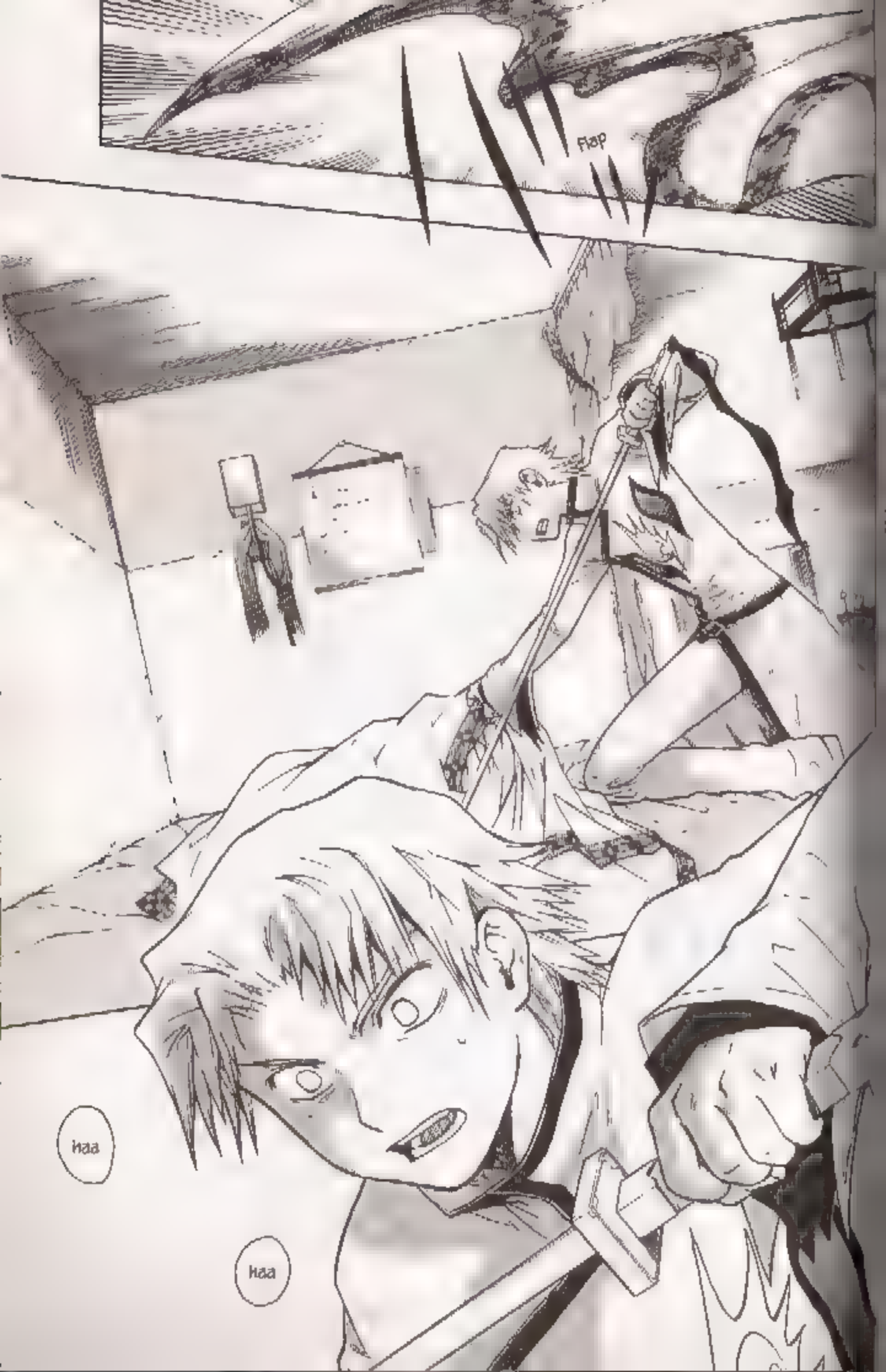
where are you from?
Issa-kun,


But you're a ViUS captain and you know a whole lot of things.
You're full of mysteries.
It's like you've been alive forever.
At first, I thought you were much younger than me.

Where?
Yeah. You don't seem to be from around here.

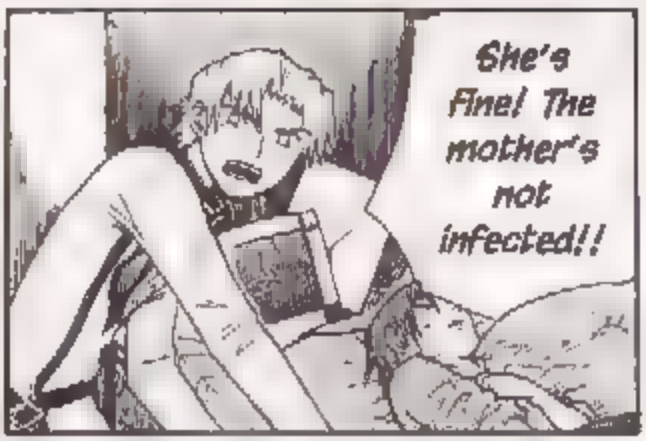
I wasn't born here.
You're right.
...Yeah.
When I was little, I moved around so much I don't even remember where I'm from.
I had an older sister, and she's the one who took me around.
I came here to Mikuni with a friend, long ago.

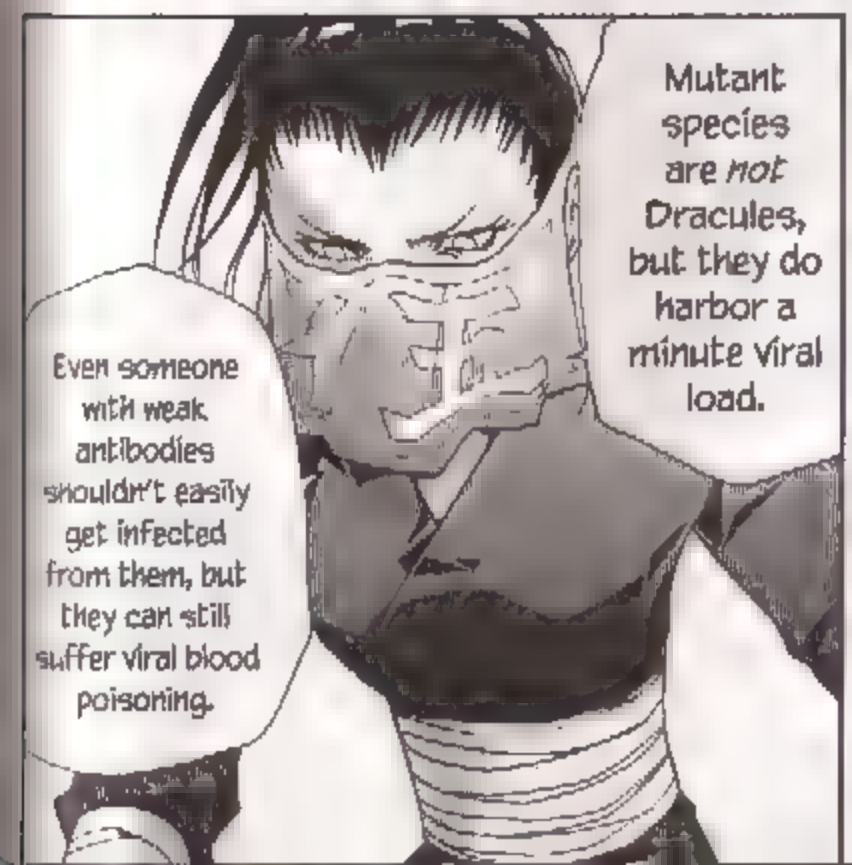
scritch...
What a gentle face... he really loves his sister...
...I see.
But I had to leave her behind in this place
I promised I'd go back for her some day.
I know she's waiting for me.

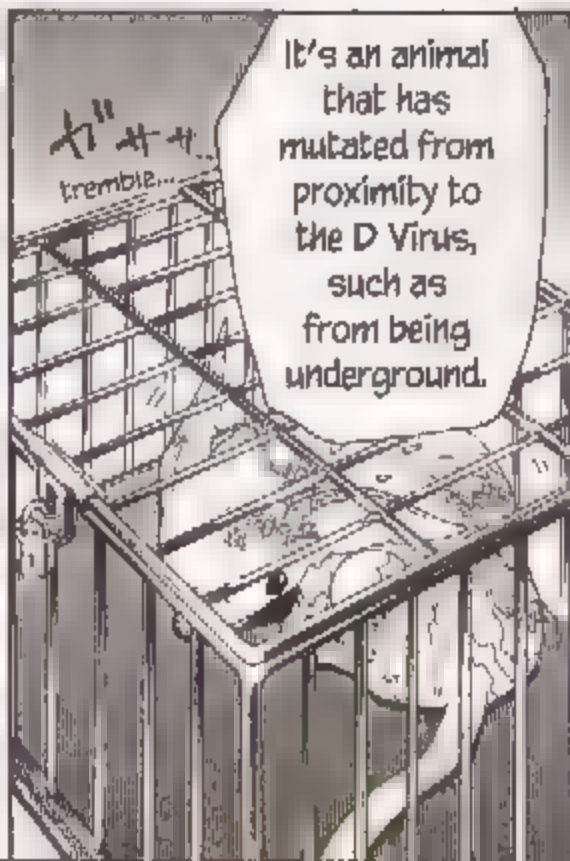

flap
haa
haa

Her pulse is strong.
There's no sign of transformation.
wheeze
wheeze

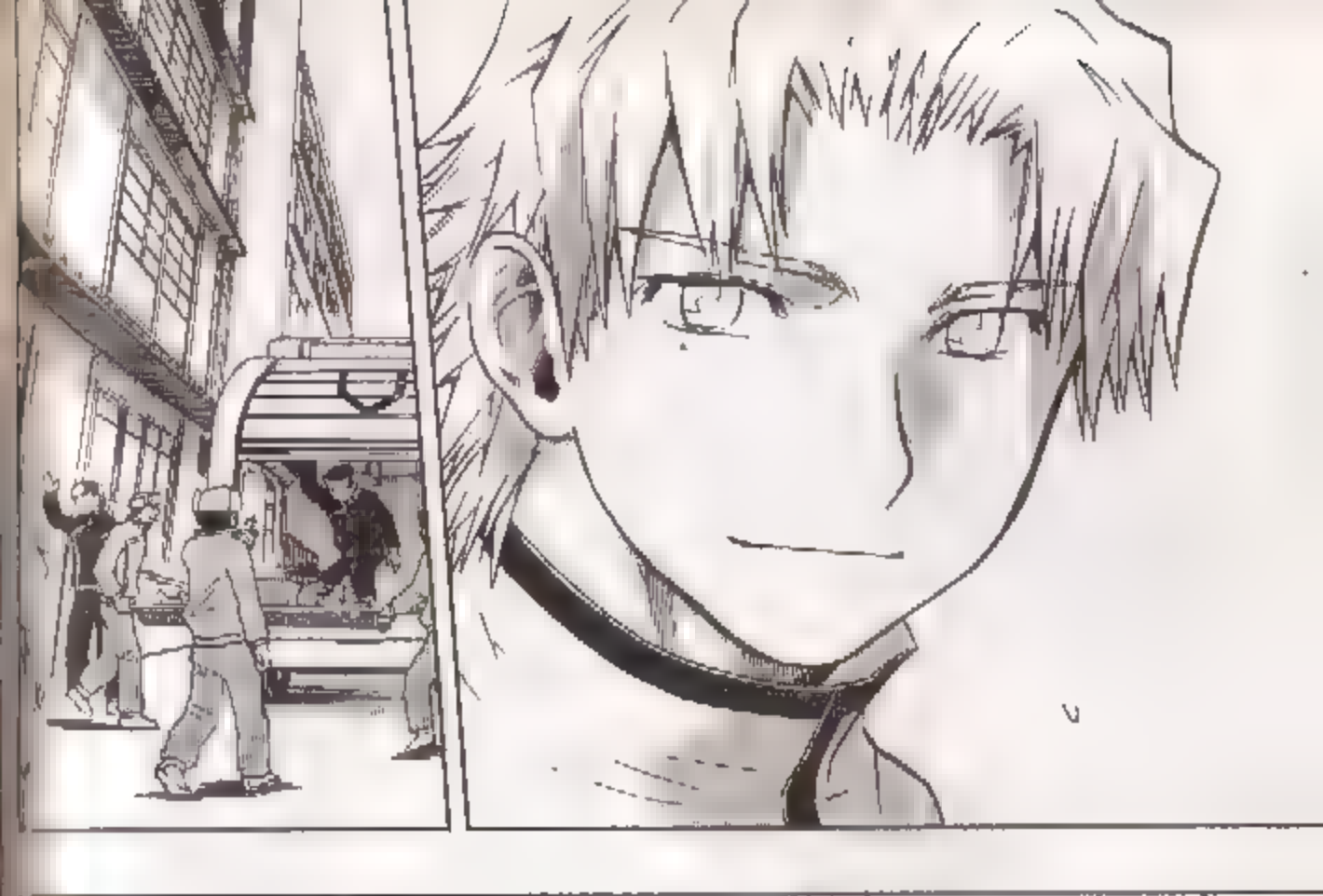
Here it is!!


She's fine! The mother's not infected!!

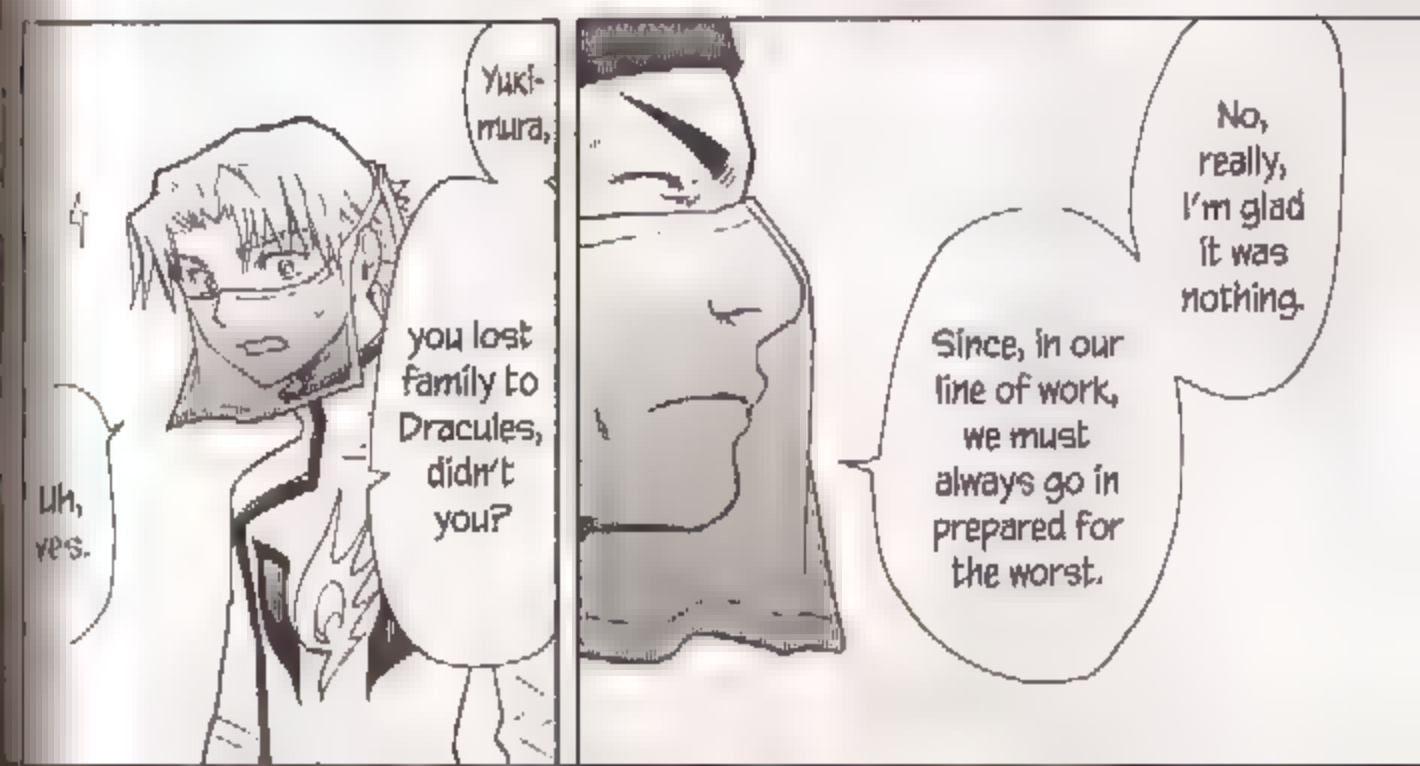

Even someone with weak antibodies shouldn't easily get infected from them, but they can still suffer viral blood poisoning.
Mutant species are *not* Dracules, but they do harbor a minute viral load.


tremble...
It's an animal that has mutated from proximity to the D Virus, such as from being underground.

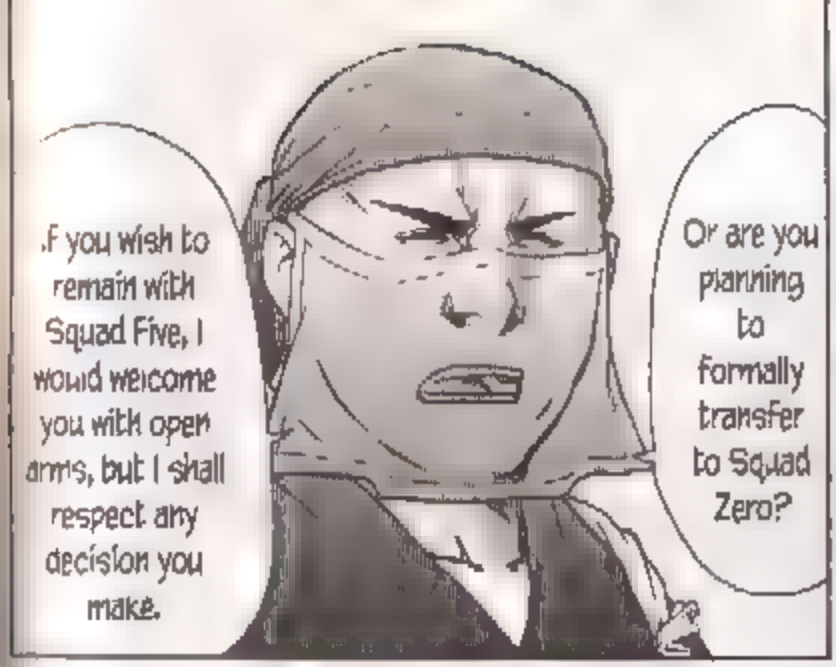
Medics!!
wheeze
From the looks of it, she's not too sick.
And an ordinary civilian can progress to critical condition just from sheer shock.
cough
Treat her, stat!!
All rush
All rush
All rush
Hurry, medics! The mother's negative!
sigh
...phew.

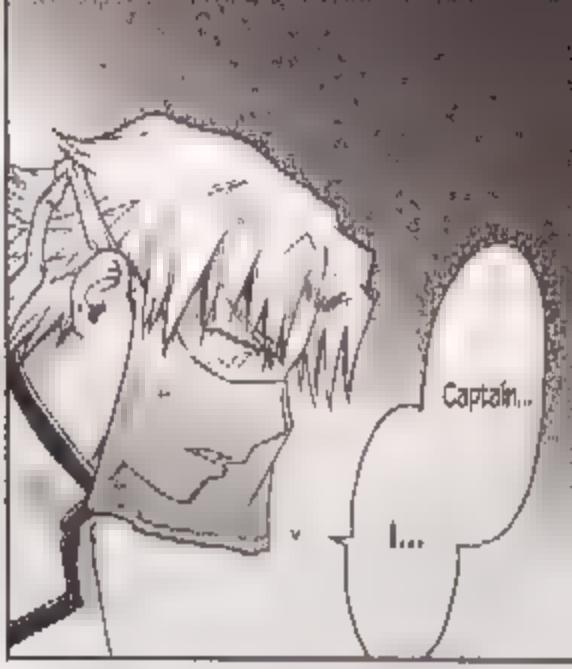


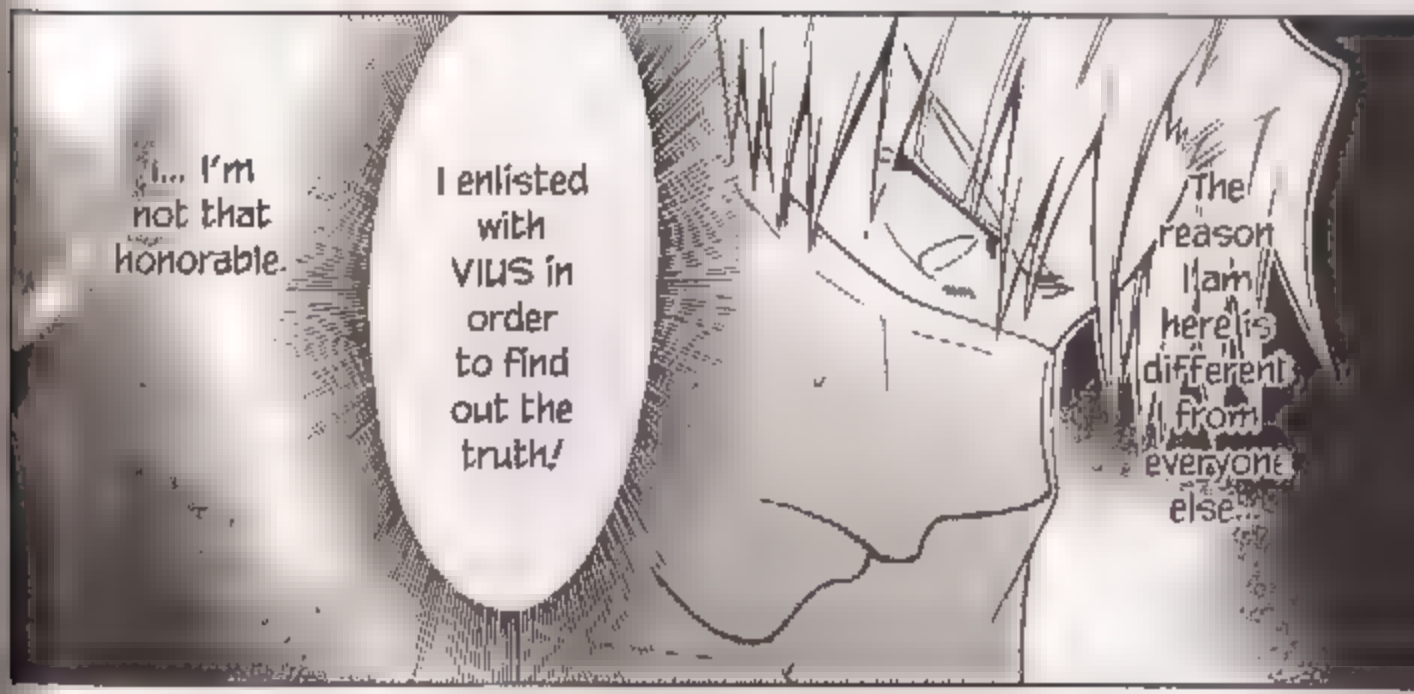
Yes.
Even though it's unusual for one of your missions to resolve without incident, Captain...?
...I'm glad it was nothing.


Yuki-mura,
you lost family to Dracules, didn't you?
Uh, yes.
Since, in our line of work, we must always go in prepared for the worst.
No, really, I'm glad it was nothing.

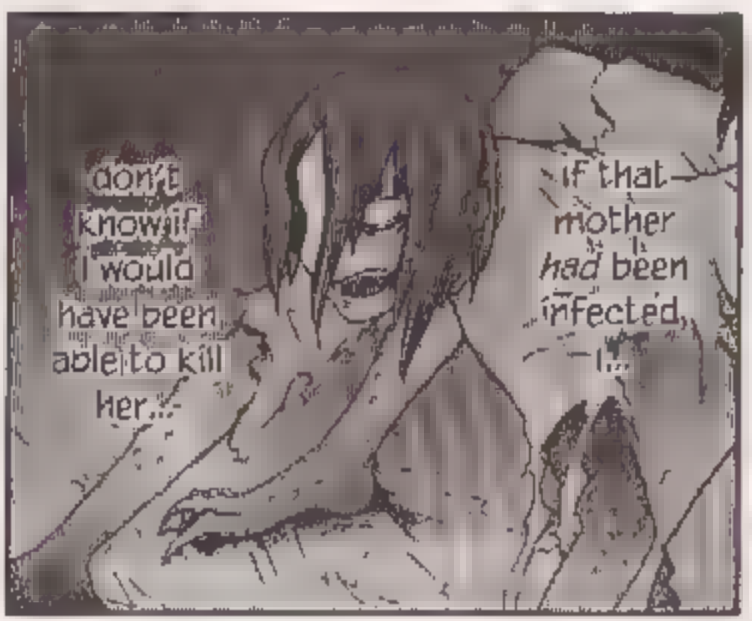
Oh, but...
Especially good work, then, for staying cool.
Because Chihiro's work involves interacting with fellow humans, we must not let our emotions get the better of us.
We need absolute composure to be able to execute people infected right in front of us without any hesitation.
Yukimura, you are an exceptional warrior.
My expectations of you still have not changed.
I believe you are capable of leading Chihiro one day.


If you wish to remain with Squad Five, I would welcome you with open arms, but I shall respect any decision you make.
Or are you planning to formally transfer to Squad Zero?


Captain...
I...

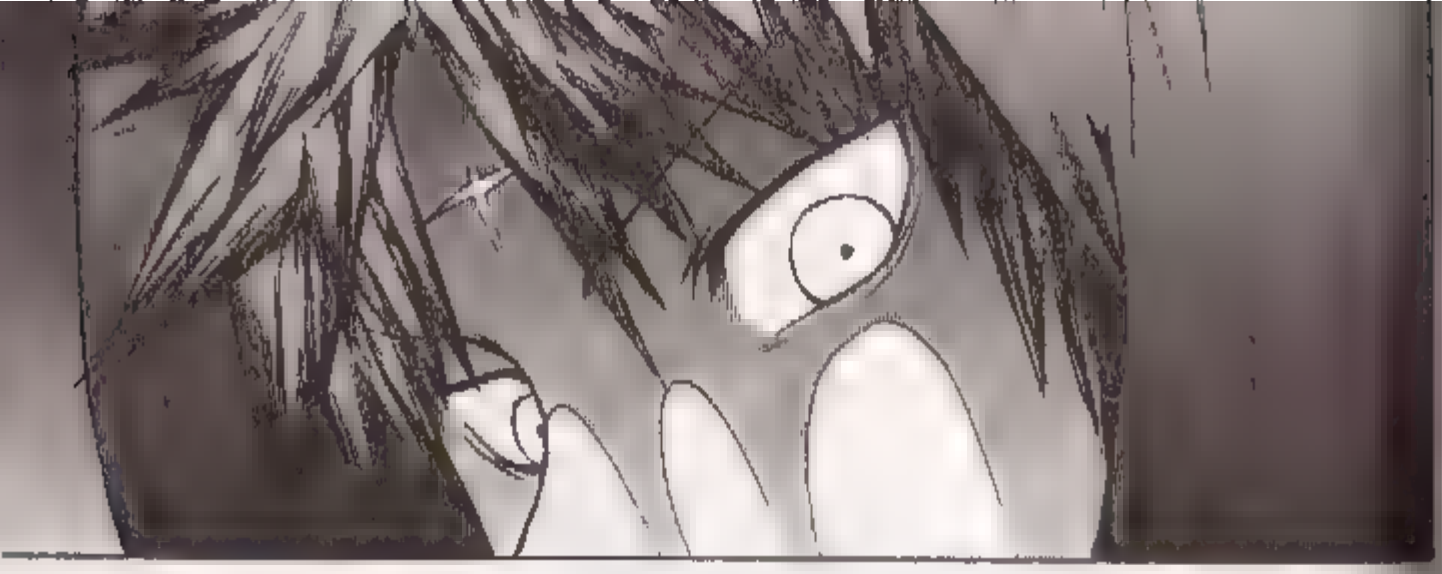

I... I'm not that honorable.
I enlisted with VIUS in order to find out the truth!
The reason I am here is different from everyone else...

...Captain... could you tell me something?

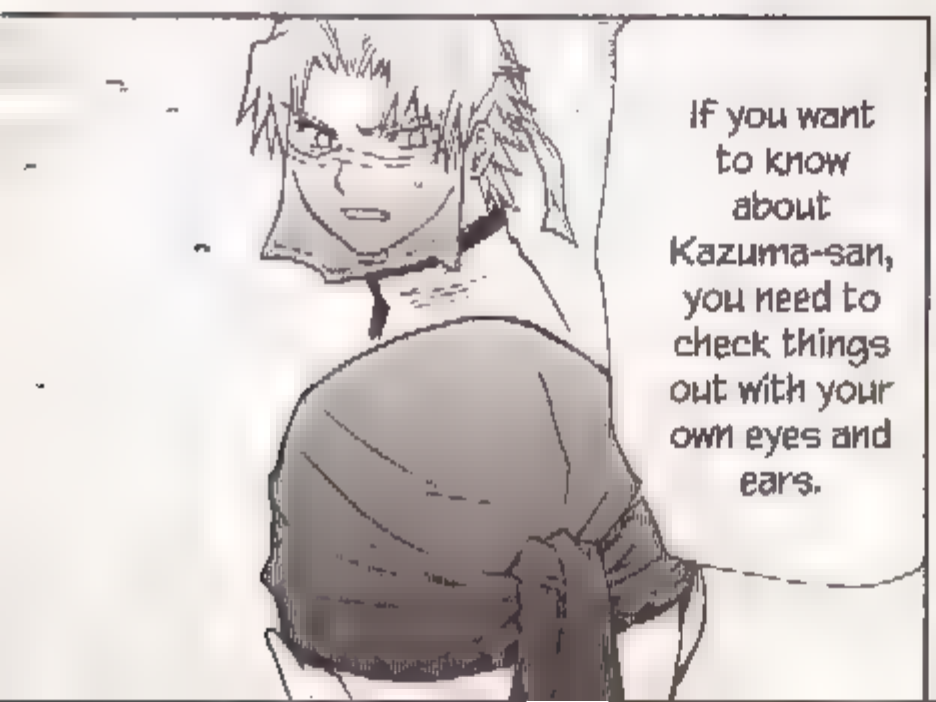

don't know if I would have been able to kill her...
If that mother had been infected, I...

So you know him pretty well, don't you?
You were on the old Squad Zero under Captain Kazuma's command.
my opinion of Captain Kazuma...
When I first met him,
Well, yes, but what...?
Right... indeed.
That's what I thought.
...was that he was rash, flippant, and irresponsible, and on top of that, had child-like features that made it hard to believe he was a squad captain.

I'm starting to see the real him.
I feel like...
But after having gone on several missions with him...
who is trustworthy and can respect others' hearts...
Could he really be someone
...
Could he truly be such an honest, upright person?
Someone who cannot lie... and even if he did, the truth would come out right away...?



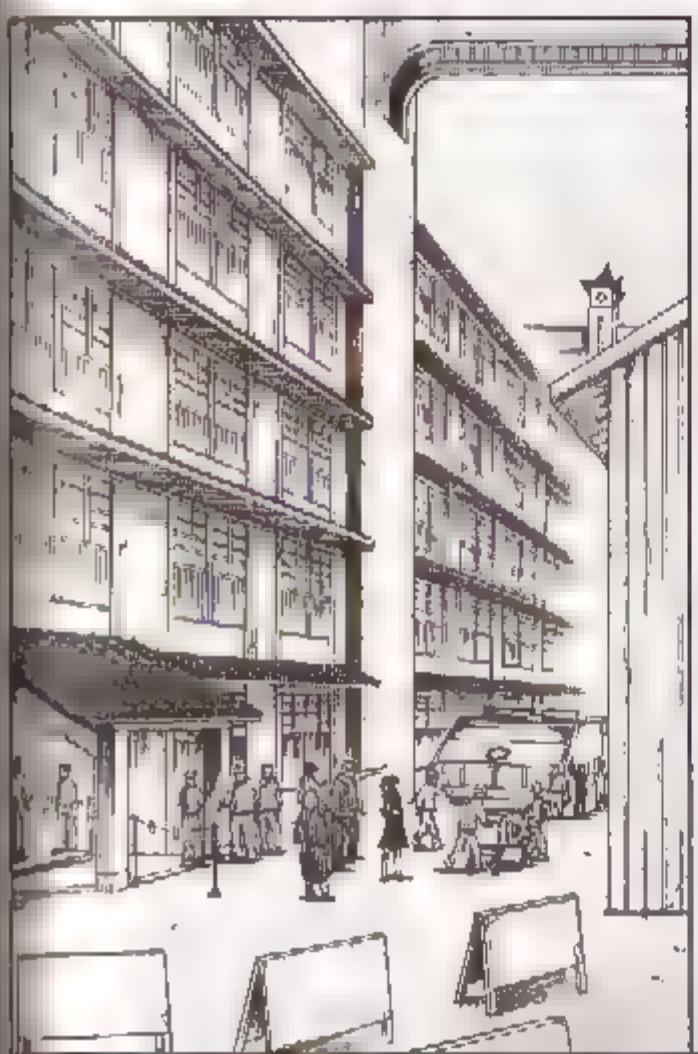
I have started having doubts about what the truth is.
About which is the real him...
please tell me, Captain Kiura!


If you want to know about Kazuma-san, you need to check things out with your own eyes and ears.

Yuki-mura... why...

...

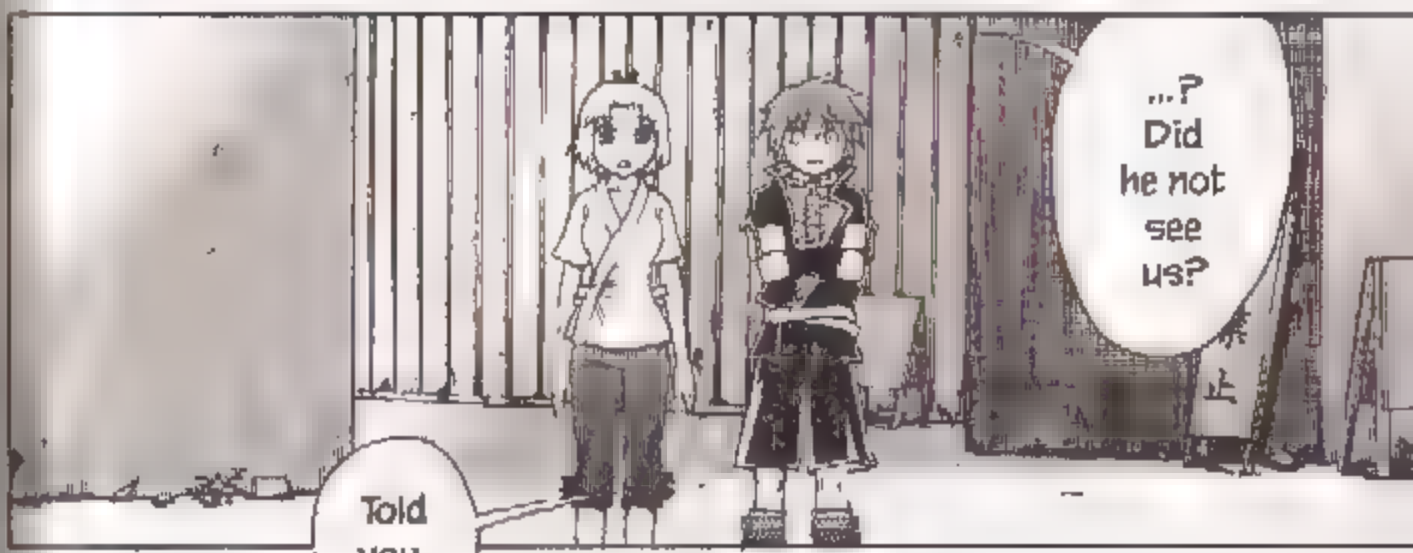
For now.
That's all I can say

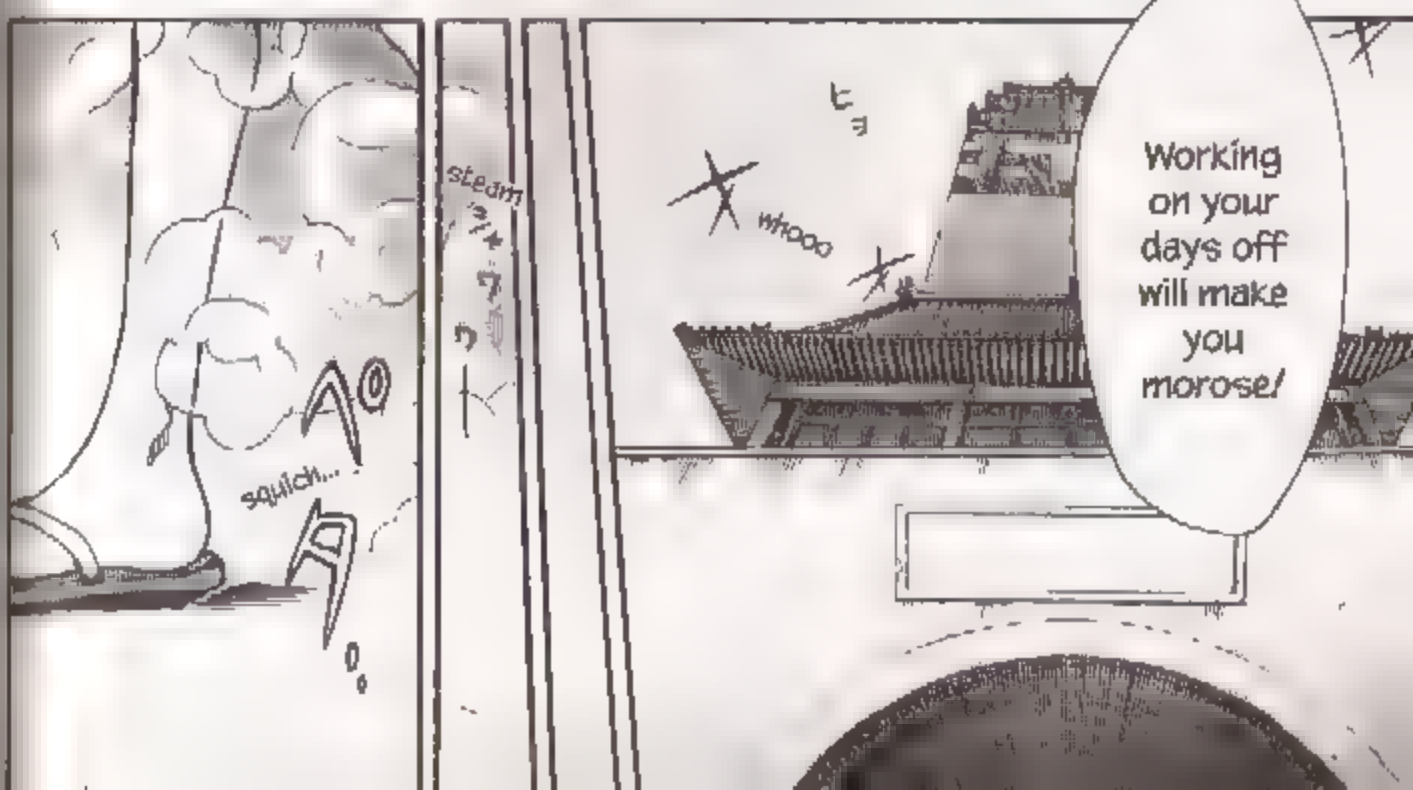


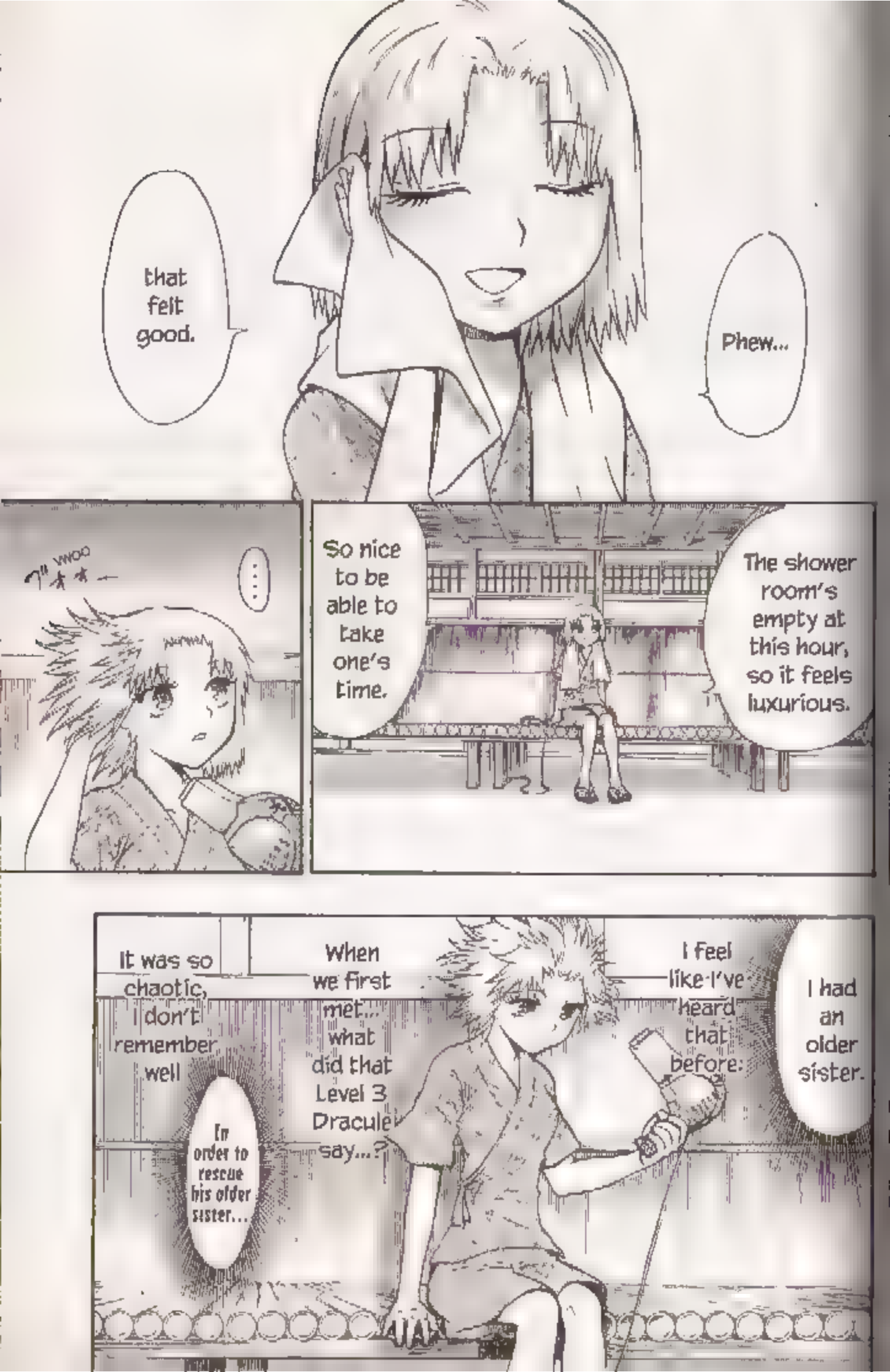
All right, shall we go?

Oh... OK.

It is Squad Five! And there's Sōsei-san!
Hey, if it isn't Chihiro.
Isn't that...


...? Did he not see us?
Told you.

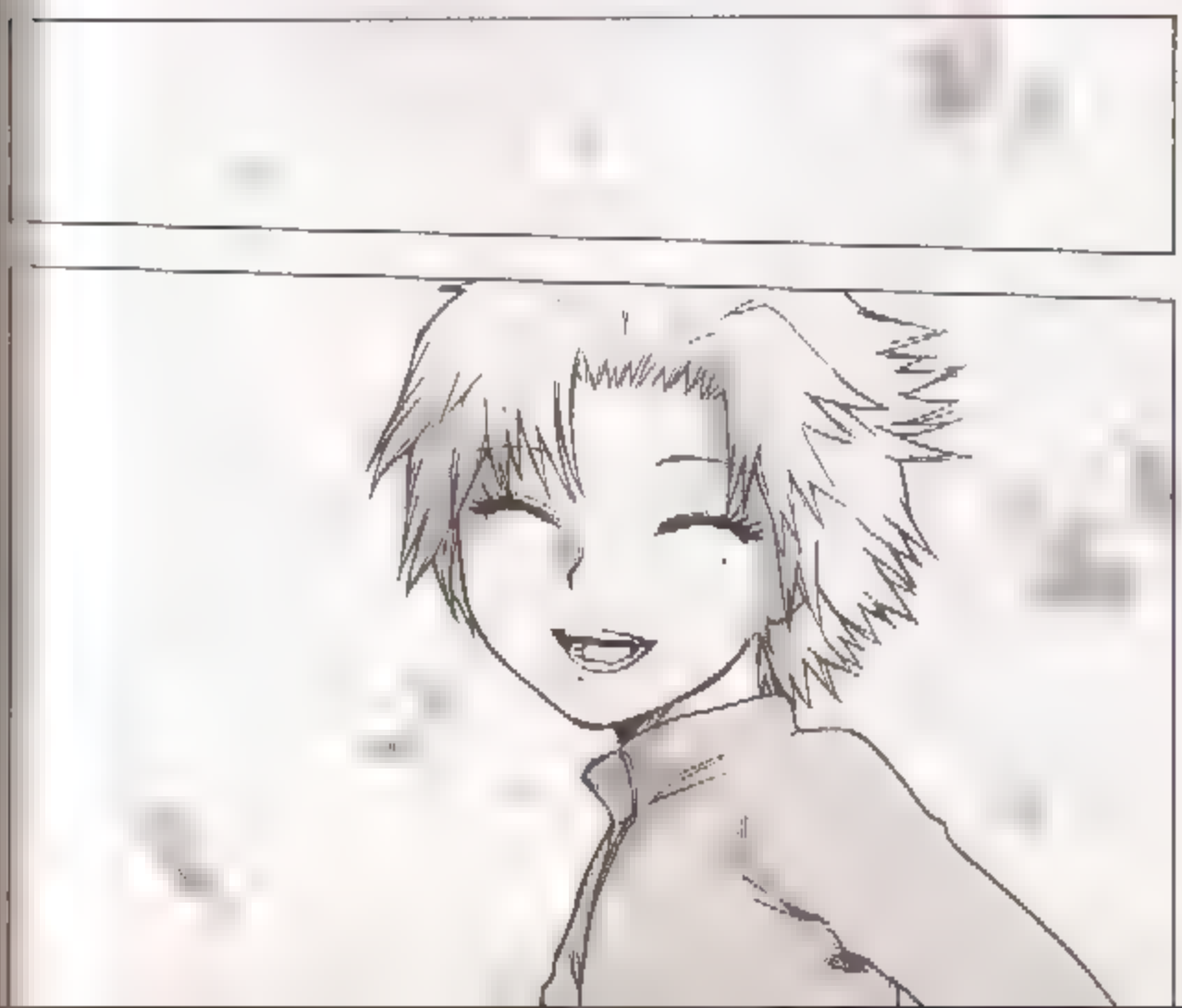

squish...
steam
whooo
Working on your days off will make you morose!


that felt good.
Phew...
...
So nice to be able to take one's time.
The shower room's empty at this hour, so it feels luxurious.
It was so chaotic, I don't remember well
In order to rescue his older sister...
When we first met... what did that Level 3 Dracule say...?
I feel like I've heard that before.
I had an older sister.

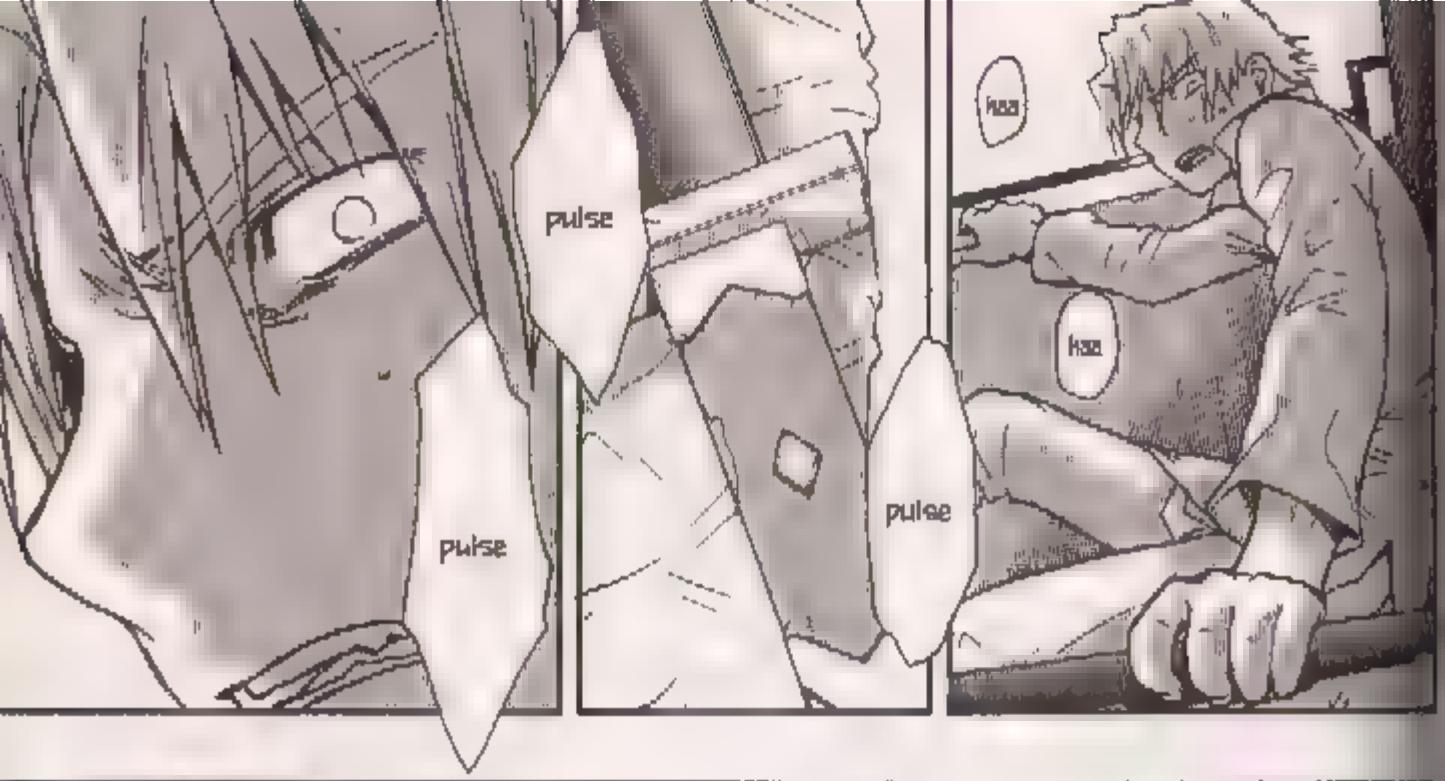
I wonder if he'll tell me one day...

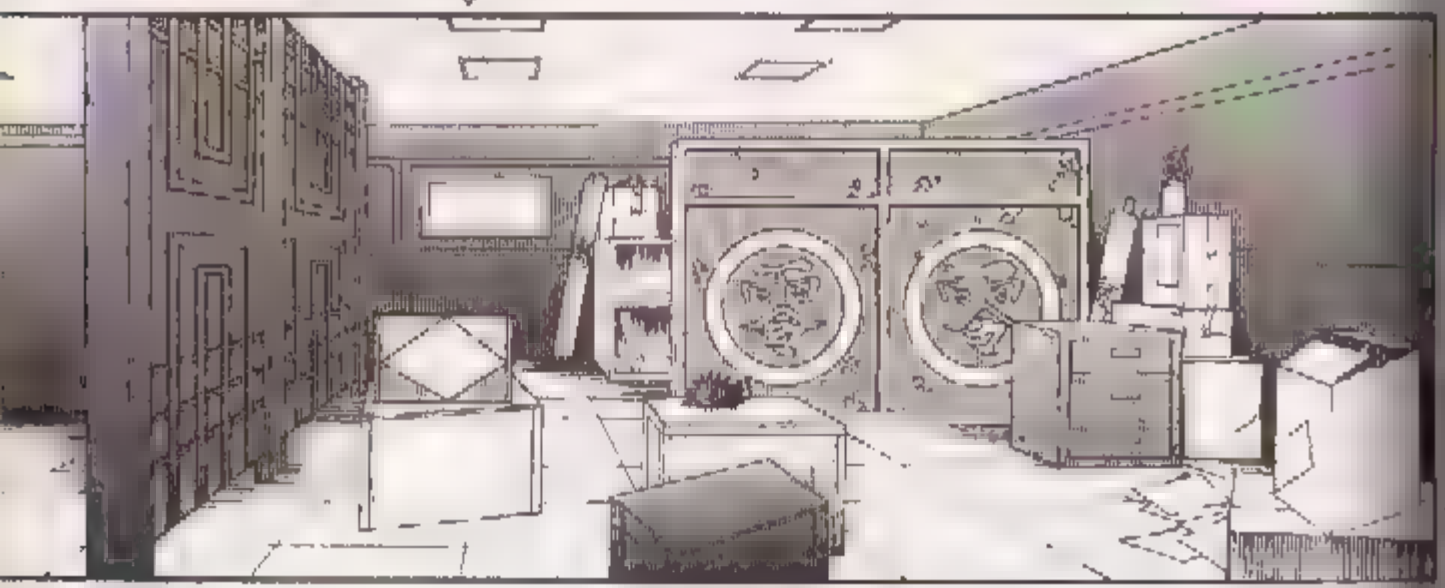
I guess he had a similar reason to the old me.

I still don't really know the reason Issa-kun wanted the Dragon Eye.



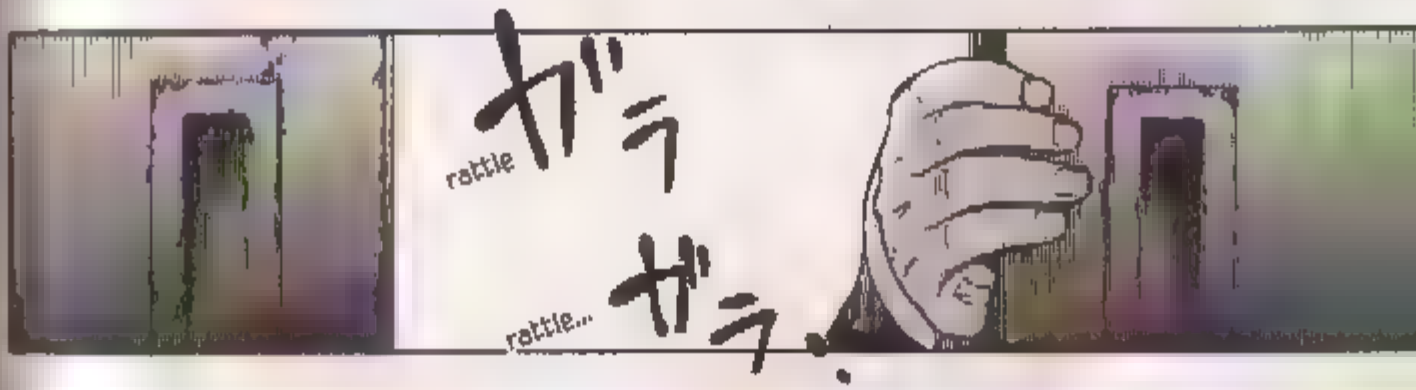
haa
!!
haa
haa

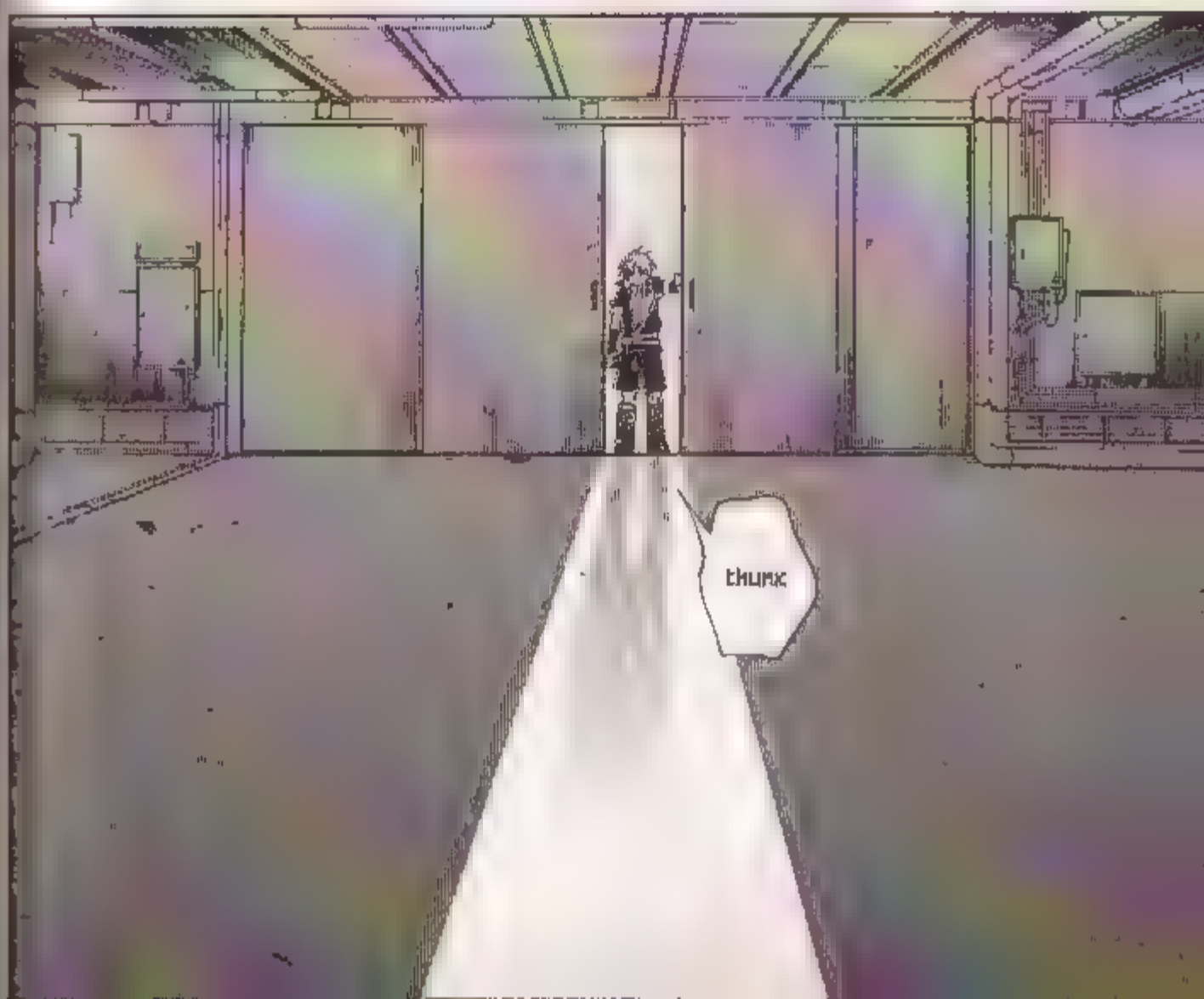

pulse
pulse
pulse
haa
haa



When am I finally going to get a desk?
Uh... I guess I should confirm details before we head out today...

What's this?


rattle ガラ
rattle... ガラ


thunk

...Who is it that goes to the trouble of faking an official notice
to drag me out here so early in the morning?
Having kindly indicated that I should come armed.
This isn't today's mission location, is it?
Fool! Dunce!
I'm not going to keep falling for the same trick!
Hey, come out already! I know it's you, Hibiki!!

SWISH

You swore to me once before that if I could score one point against you that you'd tell me the truth.
Our ready room's in the other wing.
I used to have a mountain of questions for you.
About my little sister, about you...
...Right.
Because today, we're just going to settle things once and for all.
But you can forget all that now.
What the...

Draw your blade, Kazuma.

This isn't a drill or a match.

It's a duel...

until one of us goes down

or gets hacked up!

Dragon Eye 5 END

TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Troop designation symbols, various pages

Most VIUS members wear their troop designations somewhere on their uniforms, and equipment and objects sometimes bear stamps as well. For example, on the cover, the back of Leila's shirt has the character for "zero" emblazoned on it. On page 1, the flag reads "Misora," and the veils depict one older way of writing the number "seven," while on page 32, the veil depicts the older way of writing the number "six".

We've received word from below. The captain has successfully infiltrated.
We'll be going in now. Akane, Masato, Yukiji, follow me.
Hibiki, you...

Thief's bandanna, page 24

A large bandanna or headscarf covering one's head and tied under one's nose is an old artistic convention used in Japan (both in *manga/anime*, and live action works) to indicate a thief or burglar.

Teru-teru bouzu, page 69

Literally translated as "the monk with the shiny bald head," these doll-like objects made from white cloth with ink-drawn faces and hung from strings outside one's window are amulets against rain. Apparently once used by farmers to manipulate the weather (hanging them upright keeps clouds at bay, while hanging them upside down is a prayer for rain), they are now mostly appropriated by children who make and put them up the night before a school picnic or athletic tournament to wish for sunny skies. There is a nursery rhyme associated with these amulets as well.

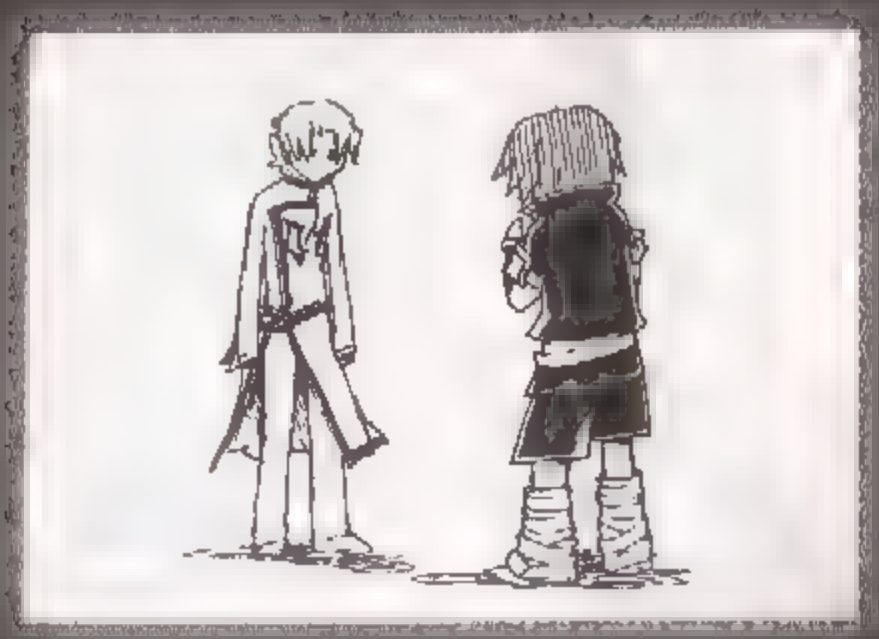
Kaisendon, Gyûmeshi

Two other variations of the *donburi* or rice bowl dishes that Issa is so fond of. The *kaisendon*, or seafood bowl, consists of a deep bowl of rice generously topped with pieces of raw fish, or *sashimi*, whereas the *gyûmeshi* or *gyûdon* is topped with marinated, stewed sliced beef and onions.

Daifuku

A sweet and filling snack consisting of a flattened circular *mochi* or sticky rice cake exterior, most traditionally stuffed with red bean paste. Its name was once spelled "Great Belly" because of how filling it is, but was later changed to the more fortuitous name "Great Luck."

Talk
Fight



Dragon Eye

Oh my, here we are at volume 5 already.

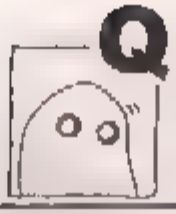
To everybody who's been faithfully buying this title, thanks!! For those strange people for whom this is their first volume, hello and nice to meet you! We've prepared lots of Q&As for this round, and it's thanks to all of you who sent queries in!

☆ And please buy volume 6!

Fujiyama

My super staff
- Uemura Erika
- Ueda Satomi
- Kamimura
- Dantani Ai

Ask me anything about the cafeteria! Let's see, I eat anything and everything, but I do eat rice bowl dishes the most. Because you get rice and your entrée all in one bowl, it's so convenient! I'm really into their Eastern Province pork bowl—they make just ten orders of it per day! It just melts in your mouth!



What else is on the HQ cafeteria menu other than the super-size seafood rice bowl and beef bowl? And which dishes do Issa-kun and Leila like best?

Hi, this is Leila in the supporting role. Nice to meet you.

Following in the footsteps of volume 4, we got tons of questions again! Thanks so much! So let's jump right in.

Eh, another age question? I don't know how old I am. Sorry! Now, Shun'ichi... hmm, he was 14 when he enlisted, so... or was he 13? Shoot, I gotta ask Fujiyama.

How old is everyone, starting with Issa-kun, and including Leila, Sōsei, Hibiki, and the other squad members? I really want to know Captain Sakuraba's age in particular! 3006-san

We're getting off to a great start! Next!

I like getting the daily fish special. The five-ingredient soup that comes with it is delicious too, but I guess my number one target is the strawberries-in-condensed-milk dessert.

Hmm... that's a lot all at once!! And all hard questions... I wonder if I can answer them.

How much is one *ryou* in terms of Japanese yen? We've seen the Issa Special 1 and 2, but are there others? How many meals does Issa eat every day? Kaligera-san

I'm back! Er... "Sakuraba is in the first half of his thirties, Yukimura in his late teens, Hibiki early teens, plus Kajiyama late teens and Hyūga is twenty"... That's pretty vague... except for "twenty." What's up with that?!

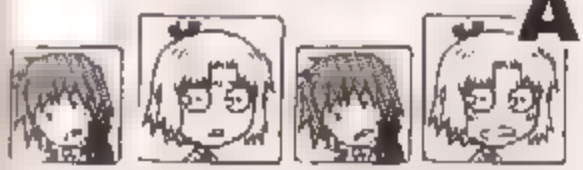
FYI, I'm 14 years old. I wish I could hurry up and become as beautiful as the Squad Six captain...

Well, I do eat the most at breakfast, lunch, and dinner, just like everybody else! I'm pretty by the book, no? And I don't think the volume is excessive... Oh, and the Issa Specials are special moves that only can use!! It's going to take some time to explain, but... if I exert myself more than 10%, you get the Issa Special. 2 is a bit more difficult, and requires more than 15% effort. In short, if I exert myself further, I suppose Issa Specials 3 and 4 are possible too, but... I haven't exceeded those boundaries yet.

Uh, you eat during missions too...

As long as I can eat, it doesn't matter to me whether it's in yen or *roku*. In terms of how much I eat... I'm always eating if and when I'm not working.

What's so hard about them? At least answer the questions about yourself! Hmm... regarding the *roku*, Mikuni City's currency unit, according to the author's notes: "The exchange rate varies daily, but it's about one *roku* to one yen." There's an exchange rate?



Huh?... You mean what I think of you? Leila is Le ia... I guess?

You said that earlier, too! What about the other question...?

Uh... I like rice bowl dishes, I think...

(Flush) Th...thank you so much. Er, Issa-kun?!

A question for Issa-kun!! You are always eating with gusto. What is your favorite food? Also, I think Leila is sooo cute. What do you think of Leila? Manuka-san

(...I wonder just how serious he is...) Next question, please (sweat).

Sorry to keep you waiting. Issa-kun will now answer the question.

(Six minutes pass)

What are you so mad about...Are you fishing for compliments or something...?? I just hate these kinds of questions! ...mumble mumble.

You *could* say something nice! Like, "She's so thoughtful, always cleaning up" or "I've got high hopes for her!" Please at least be ready with a real assessment of your own squad members! Especially since you specifically requested me for your team, I can't believe you have no opinions about me!!

Oh, come on (you're glaring at me). I've never really thought about it... mutter mutter.

Hey...isn't that kinda evasive?! Please answer properly (jab).

They looked like ears to you because of Fujiyama's drawing skills.

Uh... Issa-kun can't speak right now, so I'll read off the author's notes for him: "I believe those black things that covered Issa's ears long ago were part of the strap system that his mask attaches to." There you have it. It does seem to be part of a costume.

A question for Issa: What's up with the ears on young Issa in volume 4, mission 10? Are they part of a costume? If so, why doesn't he wear them anymore? I'm really curious. Carpaccio Stir-fry-san

Woof (Next question)

(sweat) Er...What I think when I look at Leila... is that she's got big breasts.

Go on! (glare)

Thank you very much! Next!

You think?!

What a school with good sense.

To answer the second half of the question, we've asked Sazanami-san of Squad Three to come on as a special guest. Please go ahead.

Rah, the tattoo on Kanikama's face, eh! If I remember correctly, Kanikama said he and a few other fellows got that about two weeks after they enlisted, and it represents the "mi" in Mikuni [Three Nations]. Means no matter what, he's a Mikuni kid at heart!

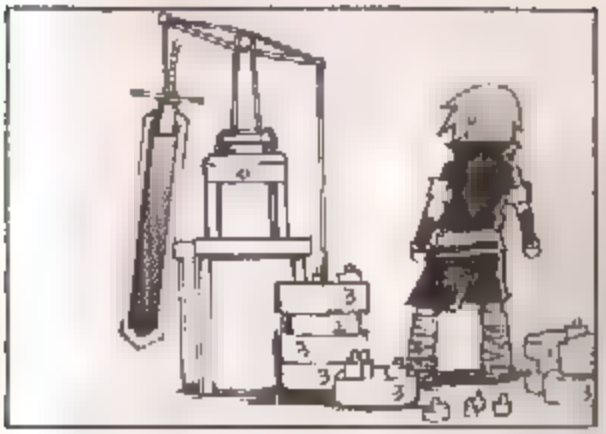
What's up with the "=" on Kajiyama-san's cheek? By the way, at my school, our athletic tournament's slogan this year is Sazanami (Ripples). What do you think, Sazanami-san? Oda-san

There are still plenty of questions left, so we're going to answer them in manga format starting on the next page!

"Misora" evinces the magnificence one feels when one looks up at the sky. "Chihiro" evinces the grandeur of the open sea. "Kazan" evinces the mystical feeling of a mountain shrouded in mist. ...How's that?

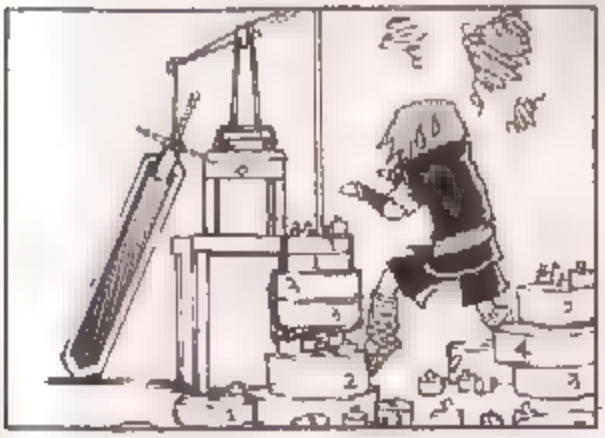
The four troops of Mikuni VIUS were created many decades ago, during its founding. Back then, there were so few people that individual squads didn't exist. I don't know if there is any meaning behind the troop names, but I do feel like they're well matched.

Do the troop names, like Troop Misora, Troop Chihiro, Troop Hidaka, and Troop Kazan, have any particular meaning that relate to their duties?



Q

Issa-kun's Diamond Sacred Steel and Hibiki-kun's Shiraha seem rather heavy to me, but how much do they actually weigh?
Meat-san



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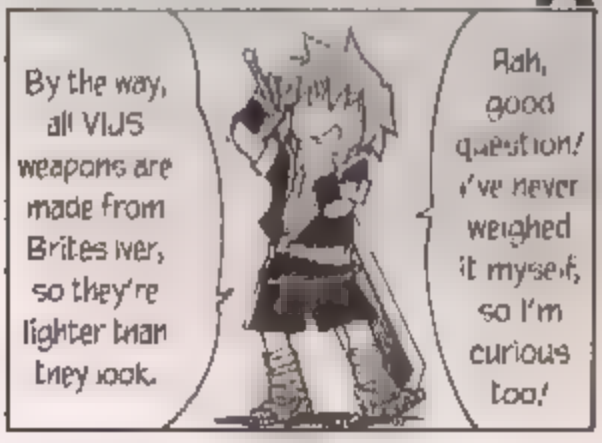
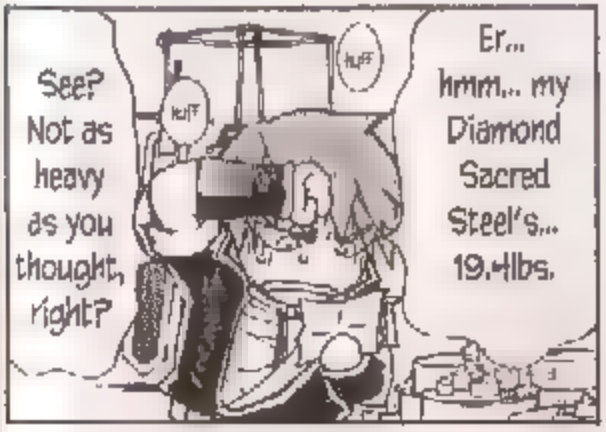
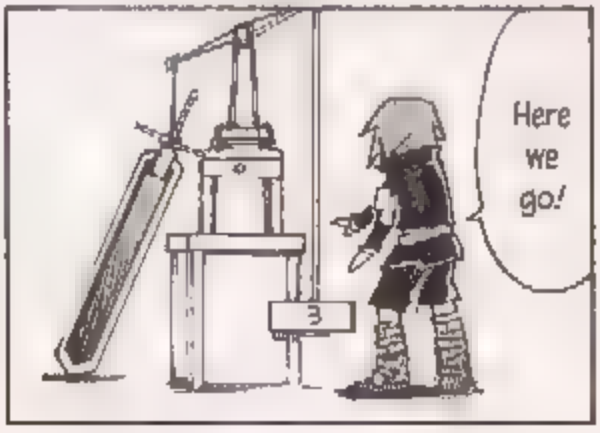
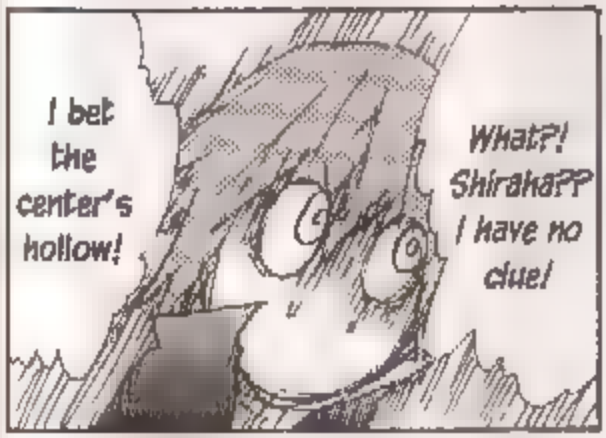
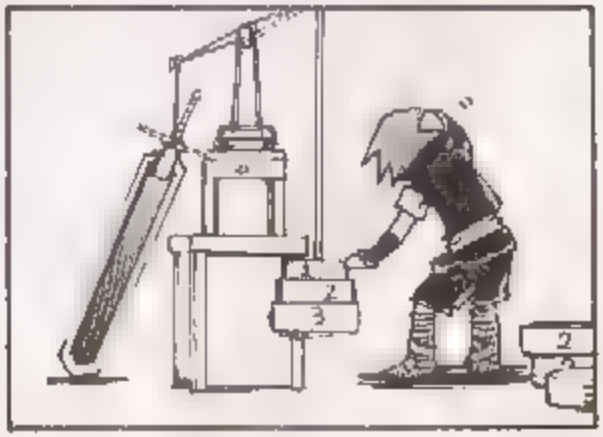

By the way, all VIJS weapons are made from Britesilver, so they're lighter than they look.
Ooh, good question! I've never weighed it myself, so I'm curious too!









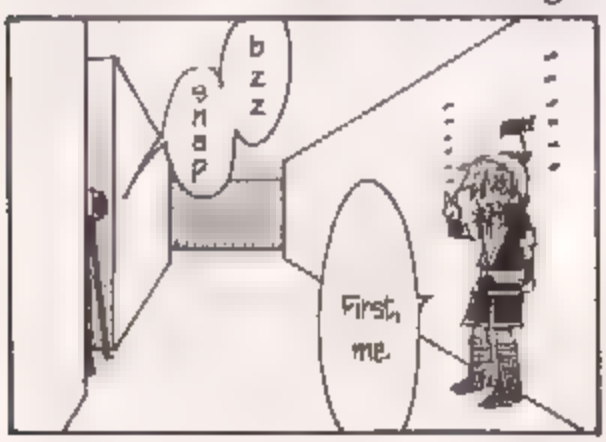
Q

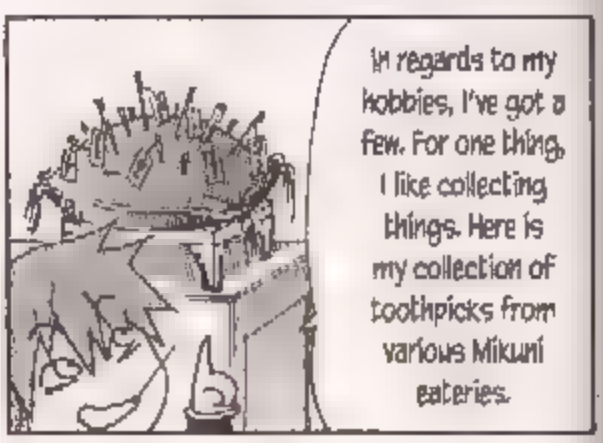
Fujiyama-sensei, I have really been enjoying your books. Now, first I have a question for Issa:
(1) When Issa was asked about Sakuraba-san's hobbies in volume 4's Q&A, he replied "I could tell you about me," but what *are* Issa's hobbies? Please tell me.
(2) What are Issa and the others' heights?
(3) Is Squad Zero's dog really a dog?
(4) Is Ciara beautiful?
(5) I'd like to know what everyone wears when off-duty!
Please tell me! Please ☺
Asano-san

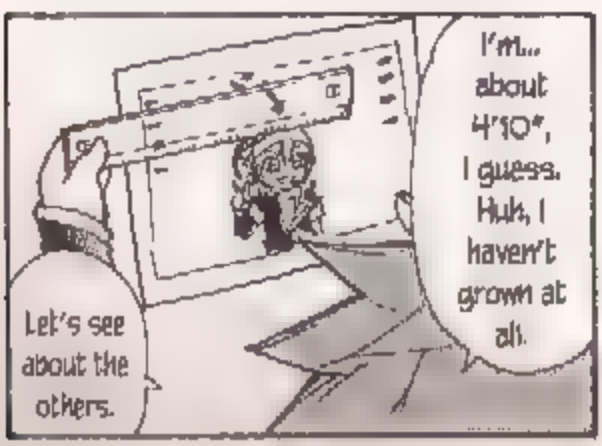
A

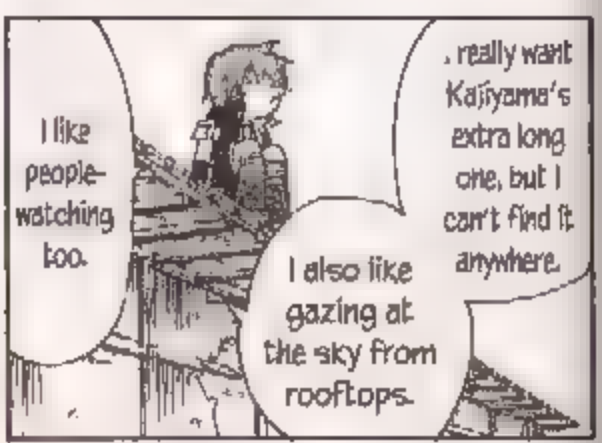
Q (2) Height

Q (1) Hobbies




In regards to my hobbies, I've got a few. For one thing, I like collecting things. Here is my collection of toothpicks from various Mikuni eateries.




I like people-watching too.
I also like gazing at the sky from rooftops.
...I really want Kajiyama's extra long one, but I can't find it anywhere.

Seeking Correspondence

Seeking all questions and concerns about Dragon Eye. Issa will answer your questions! Keep them pouring in!!

Address to:
112-8001 Tokyo
City Bunkyō
District Otowa
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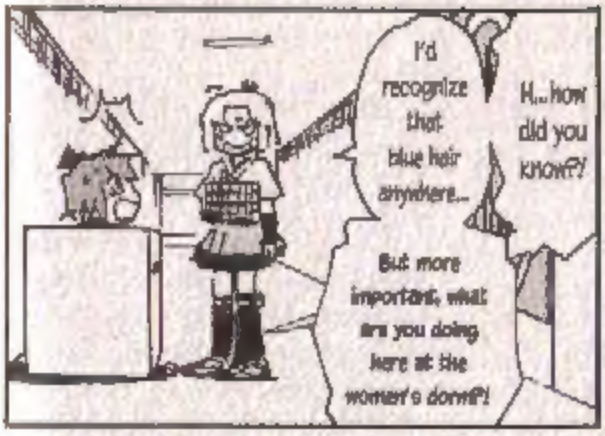
Monthly Shōnen
Sirius Attn:
"Dragon Eye Q&A
Corner" sirius@
kodansha.co.jp

Hyûga



Q (3) Is the dog really a dog?

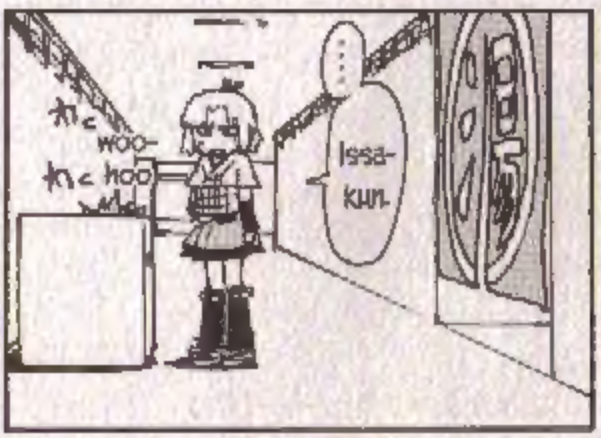
All I can say is reread Mission 14 and think about it.
Hmm, that's a hard question. Well, because I call him "Dog," he is a dog to a certain extent.

Please submit, in addition to your question(s), your address, name (and a pen name, if you have one), age, type of work, and phone number or e-mail address. If your submission is printed, we will send you a small present.

Q (4) Is Ciara beautiful?

Q (5) Everyone's off-duty clothing

"Furthermore, please be aware that all submissions, including your personal information, will be handed over to the author, so send us your questions at your own risk.



19:35
I got caught halfway through, but...
OCTOPUS
I am an idiot
here are the photos I took.
19:09
20:11
20:53

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